DC WORLD'S FINEST

SUPERMAN and MARTIAN MANHUNTER

CO-STARRING in

WORLD'S FINEST

COMICS

52 BIG pages DON'T TAKE LESS ONLY 25¢

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

NO. 212 JUNE 30730

PLUS TWO GOLDEN AGE THRILLERS STARRING... THE GRIM GHOST AND AIR WAVE!

DC WORLD'S FINEST COMICS 52 PAGES 25c BIGGER AND BETTER

S-222

"...AND SO MY WORLD BEGINS!"

①

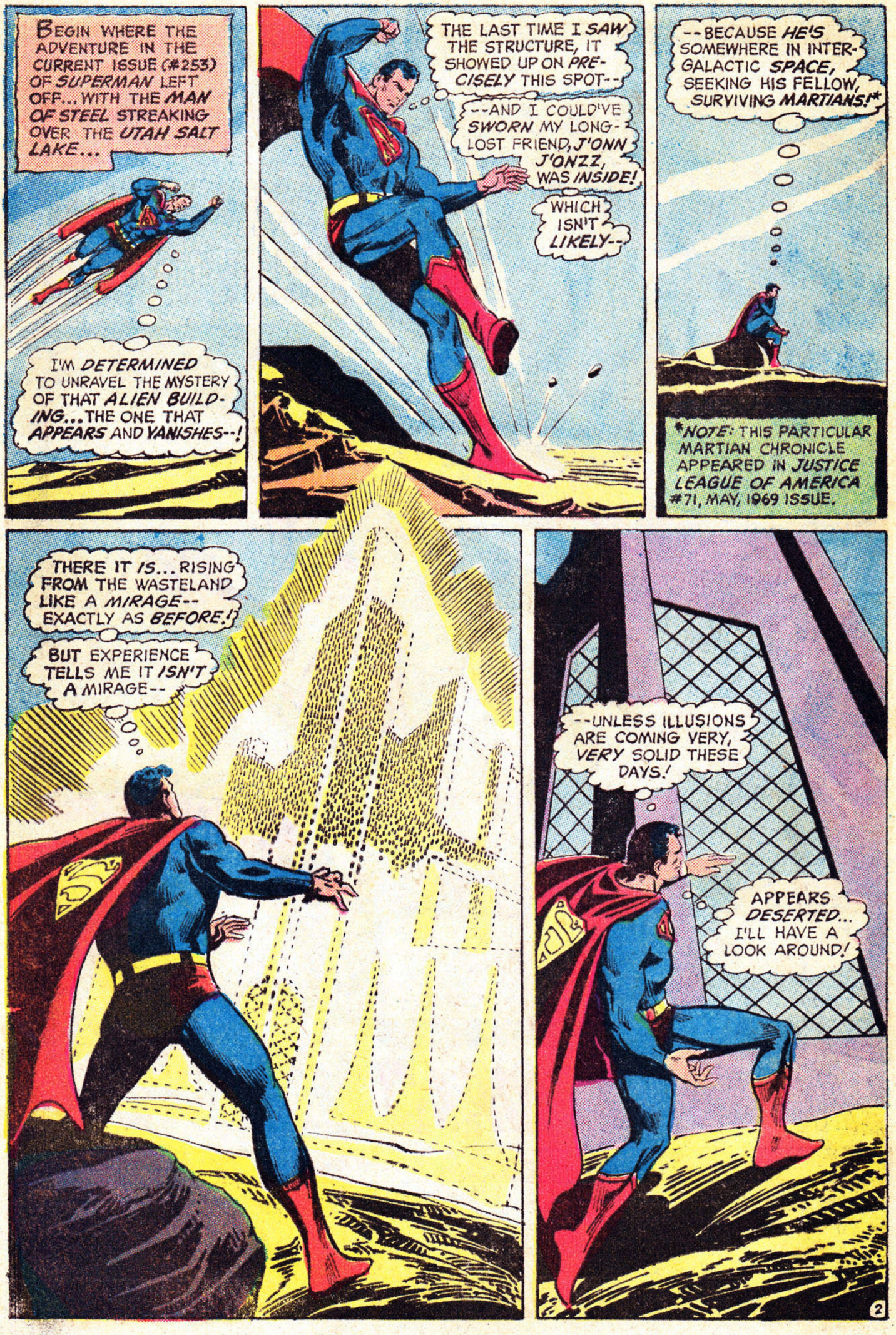
S-1199

STORY BY DENNY O'NEIL — ART BY DICK DILLIN & JOE GIELLA — EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS. Vol. 32. No. 212. June. 1972. Published monthly. (with the exception of Jan., Apr., and July) by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. E. Nelson Bridwell, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Production Manager. Ed Lolacher, Circulation Director. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional mailing offices. Advertising Representative. Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 16 West 46th Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Copyright © 1972 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: P.O. Box 1047, Flushing, N.Y. 11352. Rates for twelve 25c issues (approximately 1 1/2 years): $3.00 in U.S. and Possessions; $4.00 elsewhere.

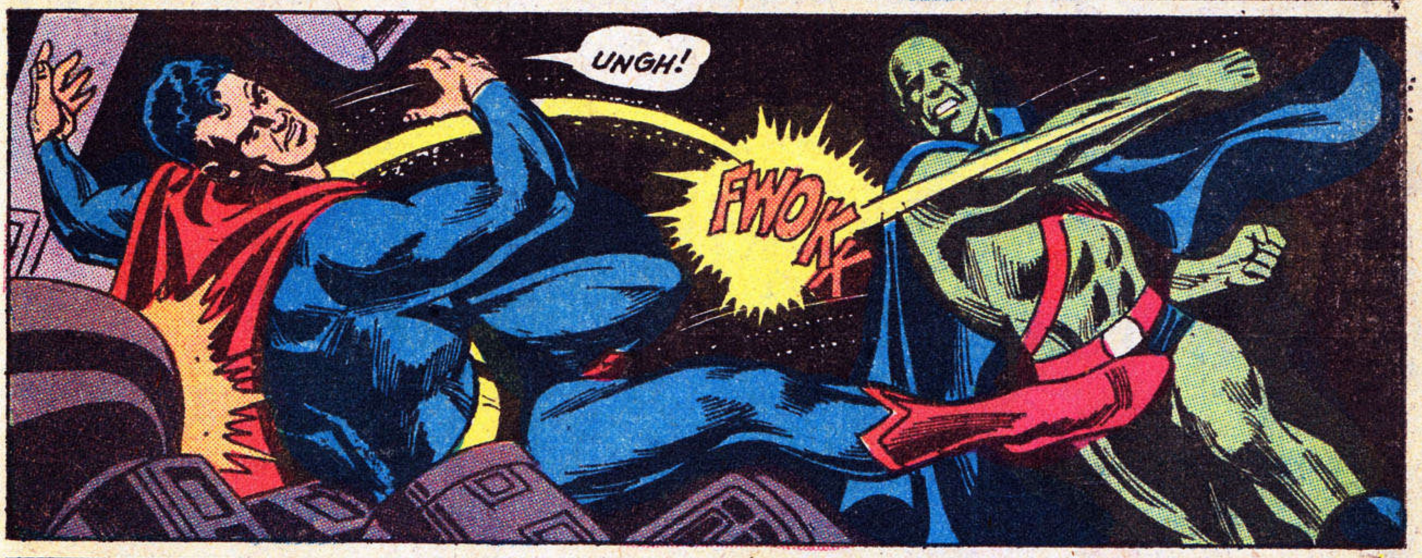
This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.


BEGIN WHERE THE ADVENTURE IN THE CURRENT ISSUE (#253) OF SUPERMAN LEFT OFF... WITH THE MAN OF STEEL STREAKING OVER THE UTAH SALT LAKE...
I'M DETERMINED TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY OF THAT ALIEN BUILDING... THE ONE THAT APPEARS AND VANISHES--!
THE LAST TIME I SAW THE STRUCTURE, IT SHOWED UP ON PRECISELY THIS SPOT--
--AND I COULD'VE SWORN MY LONG-LOST FRIEND, J'ONN J'ONZZ, WAS INSIDE!
WHICH ISN'T LIKELY--
--BECAUSE HE'S SOMEWHERE IN INTER-GALACTIC SPACE, SEEKING HIS FELLOW, SURVIVING MARTIANS!*
*NOTE: THIS PARTICULAR MARTIAN CHRONICLE APPEARED IN JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #71, MAY, 1969 ISSUE.
THERE IT IS... RISING FROM THE WASTELAND LIKE A MIRAGE-- EXACTLY AS BEFORE!
BUT EXPERIENCE TELLS ME IT ISN'T A MIRAGE--
--UNLESS ILLUSIONS ARE COMING VERY, VERY SOLID THESE DAYS!
APPEARS DESERTED... I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND!
2

SOMETHING'S MOVING IN THE SHADOWS...
HELLO-- WHOEVER YOU ARE!

SOMEONE'S COMING MY WAY... AND HE LOOKS LIKE--

J'ONN J'ONZZ! HOW ARE YOU--? HOW ABOUT AN EARTHLY HAND-SHAKE..? GIVE ME YOUR HAND...


UNGH!
FWOK

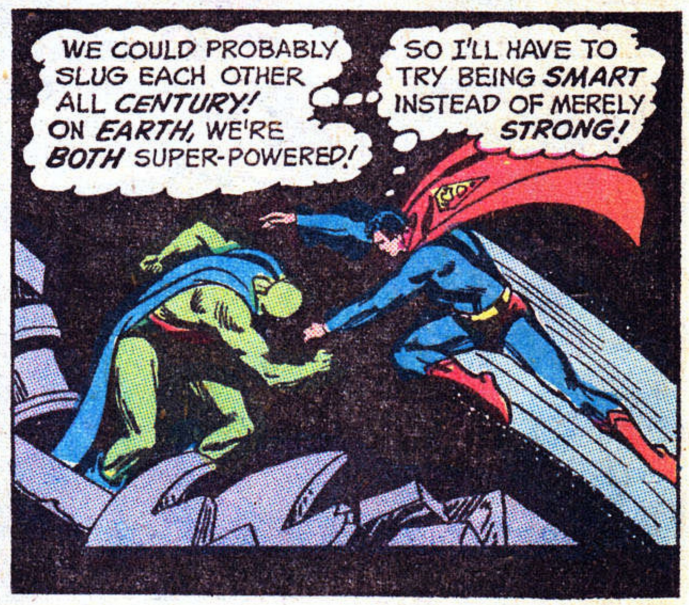
PEOPLE USED TO WONDER IF THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER COULD THROW AS HARD A PUNCH AS I CAN!
JUDGING FROM THE CONDITION OF MY JAW, THE ANSWER IS A DEFINITE YES!

BUT THE BIG QUESTION IS... WHY? WHAT POSSIBLE REASON COULD J'ONN HAVE FOR TRYING TO DISMANTLE ME?
MAYBE THE ANSWER TO THAT IS IN HIS EYES--

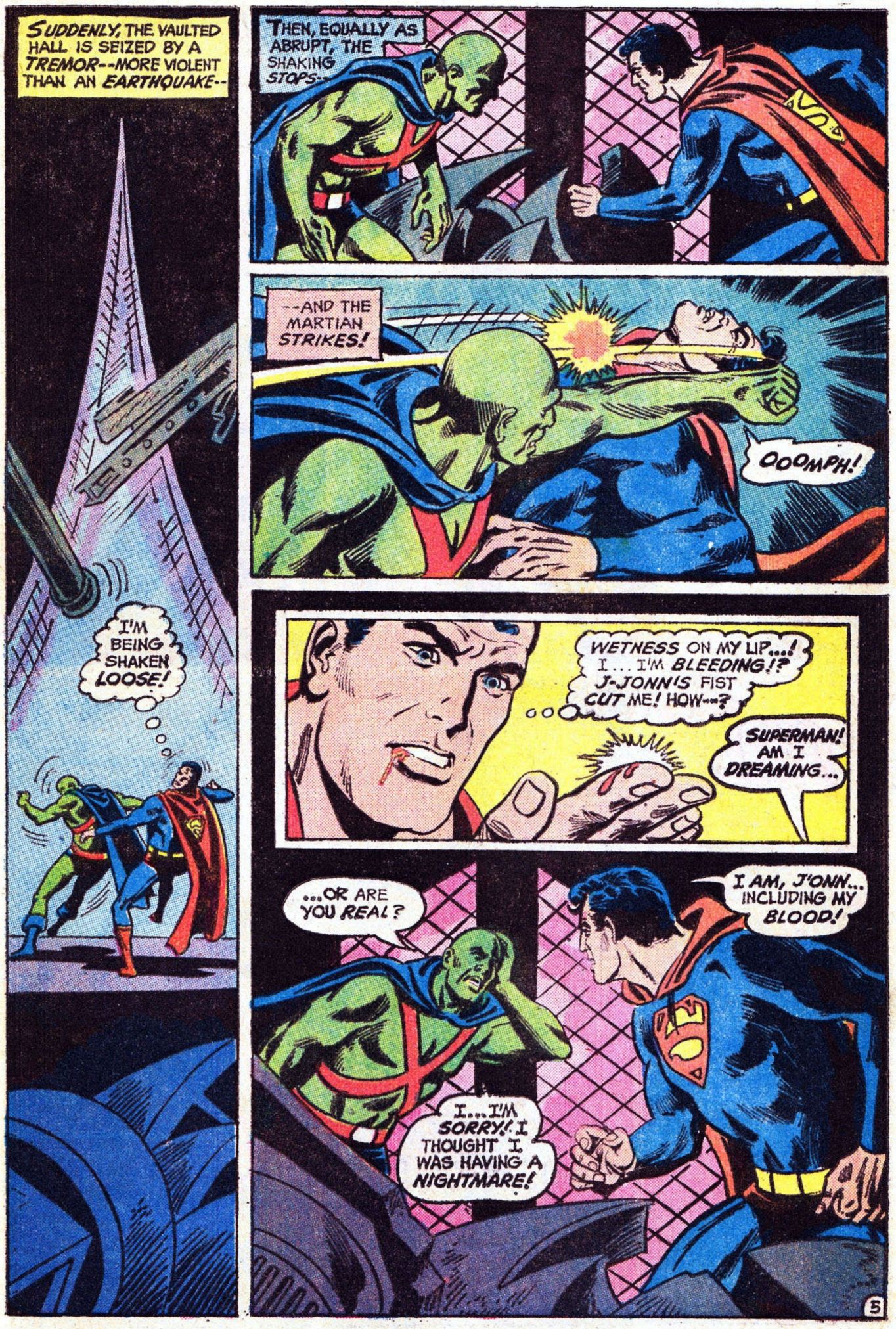
THEY'RE WIDE... WITH MADNESS! HE'S CRAZED ...DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING!
WHICH LEAVES ME BUT ONE CHOICE--

--TO FIGHT BACK--

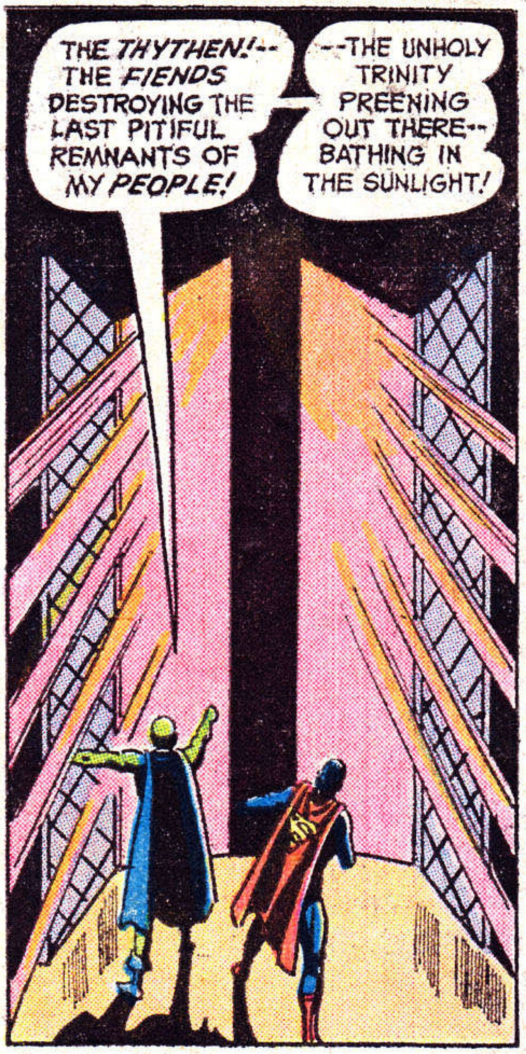
WHAP
--HARD!


WE COULD PROBABLY SLUG EACH OTHER ALL CENTURY! ON EARTH, WE'RE BOTH SUPER-POWERED!
SO I'LL HAVE TO TRY BEING SMART INSTEAD OF MERELY STRONG!

THE BATMAN SHOWED ME THIS JUDO-TRICK... A SLEEPER-HOLD!--IF MARTIANS ARE CONSTRUCTED ANYTHING LIKE HUMANS--
--IT SHOULD END OUR BRAWL!

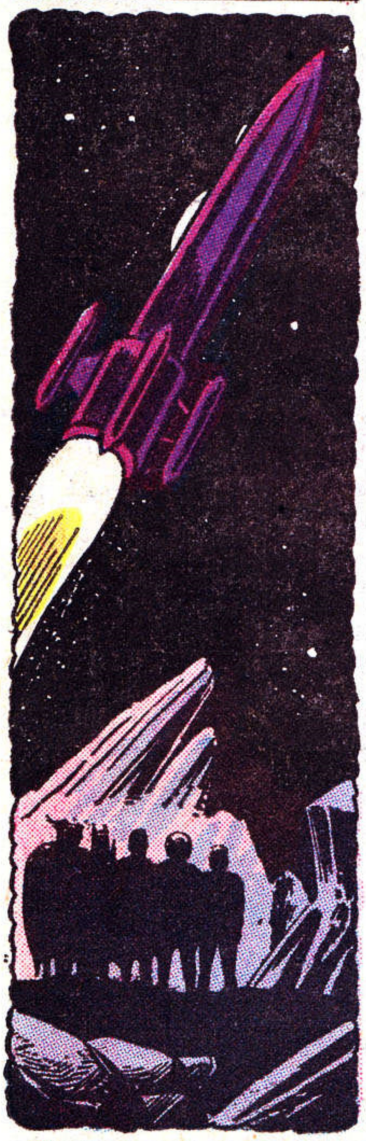


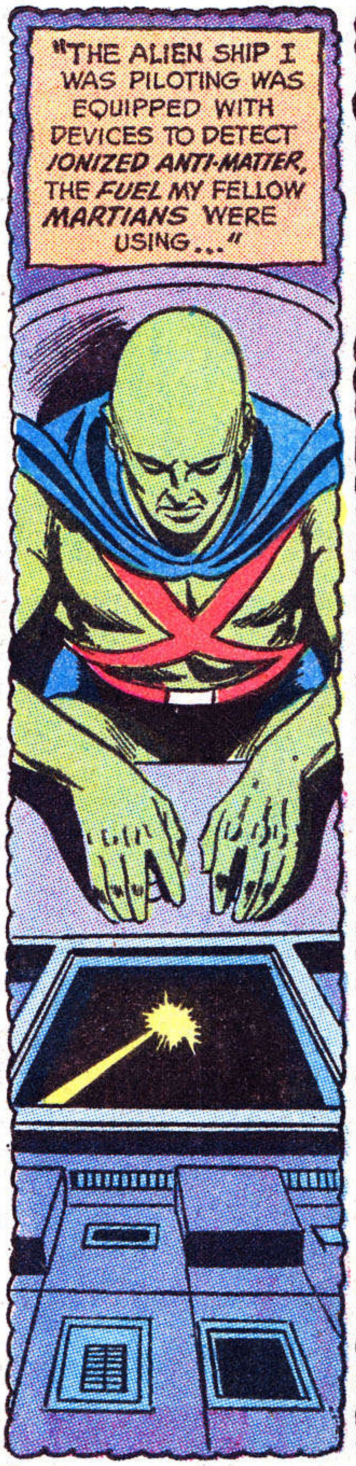
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

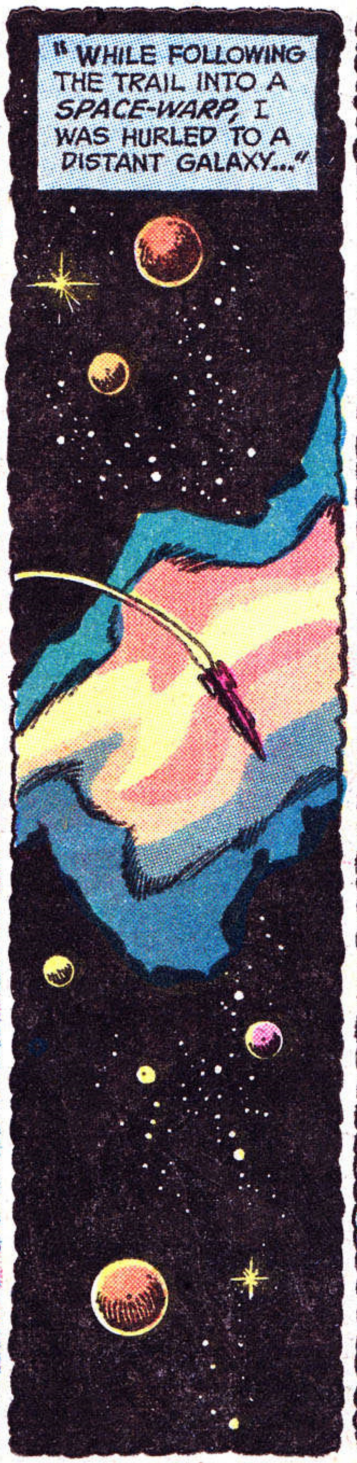


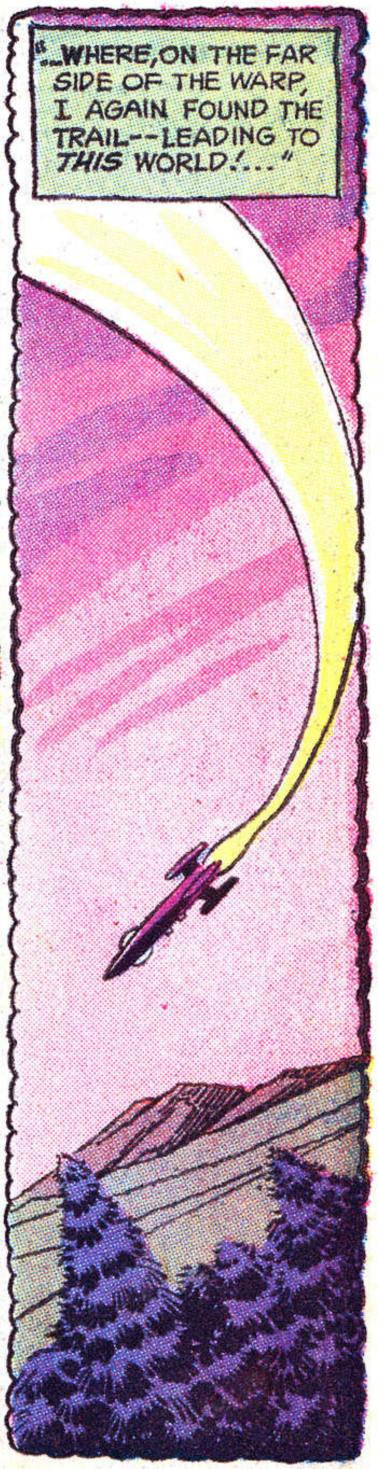
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

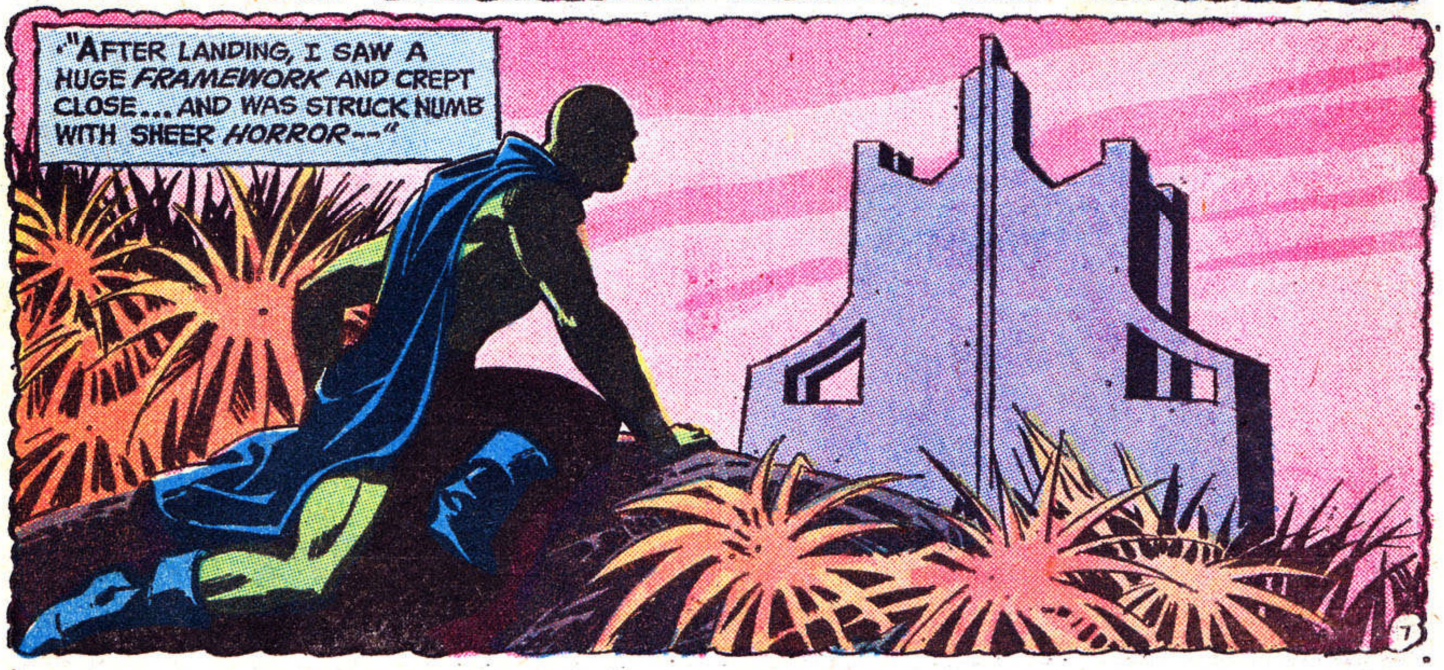
"...I BID FAREWELL TO YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AND SPED TOWARD THE STARS..."




"THE ALIEN SHIP I WAS PILOTING WAS EQUIPPED WITH DEVICES TO DETECT IONIZED ANTI-MATTER, THE FUEL MY FELLOW MARTIANS WERE USING..."


"WHILE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL INTO A SPACE-WARP, I WAS HURLED TO A DISTANT GALAXY..."


"...WHERE, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE WARP, I AGAIN FOUND THE TRAIL--LEADING TO THIS WORLD!..."


"AFTER LANDING, I SAW A HUGE FRAMEWORK AND CREPT CLOSE... AND WAS STRUCK NUMB WITH SHEER HORROR--"

"MY PEOPLE WERE *CAPTIVE*...HUNG LIKE SIDES OF *MEAT* ON A *RACK*--ALIVE BUT UNCONSCIOUS! HELMETS WERE ATTACHED TO THEIR HEADS--AND WORST OF *ALL*..."

"...THEY WERE CONNECTED TO GIGANTIC *MONSTROSITIES* ...THINGS I GUESSED WERE COMBINATION *ANDROIDS* AND *MACHINES*... OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED FOR *WAR!*"

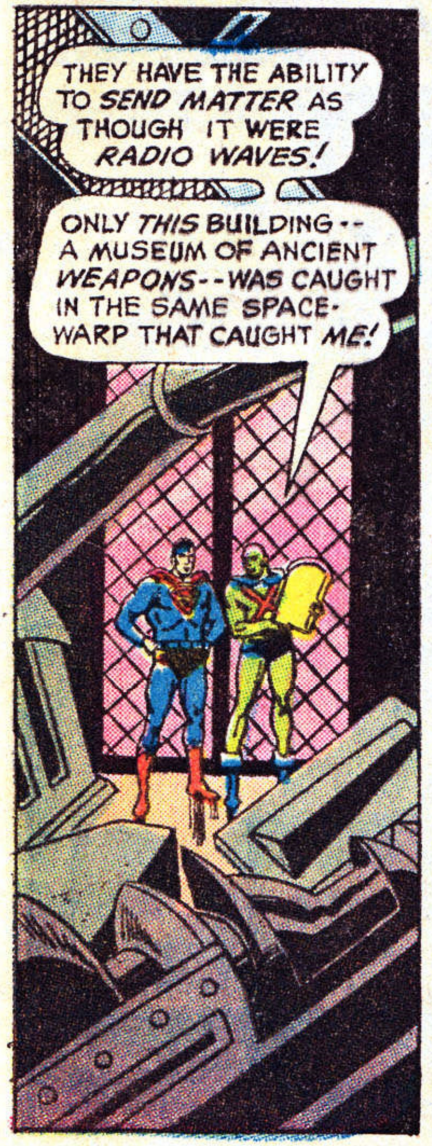
"AS I STROVE TO *UNDERSTAND*, I WAS *SPOTTED*--AND *CHASED*..."

"I SOUGHT REFUGE *HERE*...REACHED THE BUILDING JUST AS IT WAS *VANISHING!* OTHERWISE, I WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN *DESTROYED!*"

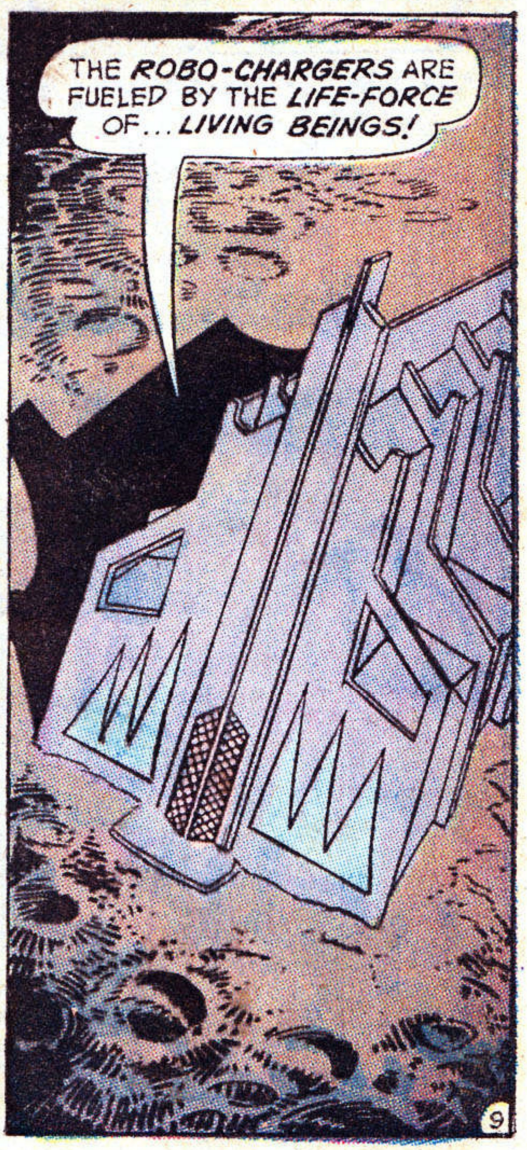
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

ANY IDEA WHO THE CREATURES THAT CAPTURED YOUR FRIENDS ARE?--WHAT THEY WANT?
YES... WHILE IN TRANSIT FROM THIS WORLD TO EARTH, I TRANSLATED THE WRITING I FOUND...
IT STATES WE'RE ON THE PLANET VONN!

THE PEOPLE WHOSE HOME IT IS FLED--FROM INVADERS... THE VERY SAME INVADERS MY PEOPLE FELL PREY TO-- THE THYTHEN!
THE RACE "BROADCAST" ITS ENTIRE CULTURE-- CITIES AND ALL--TO A DISTANT SOLAR SYSTEM! A TREMENDOUS FEAT!


THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO SEND MATTER AS THOUGH IT WERE RADIO WAVES!
ONLY THIS BUILDING-- A MUSEUM OF ANCIENT WEAPONS--WAS CAUGHT IN THE SAME SPACE-WARP THAT CAUGHT ME!

DOES THE WRITING SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE INVADERS... THE THYTHEN?
ONLY THAT THEY'RE WARMONGERS... ENGAGED IN A COSMIC STRUGGLE WITH NEIGHBORS--
--AND THEY CAME TO CHARGE THEIR ROBO-CHARGERS... THOSE COMBINATION MACHINES--AND-- ANDROIDS I MENTIONED!

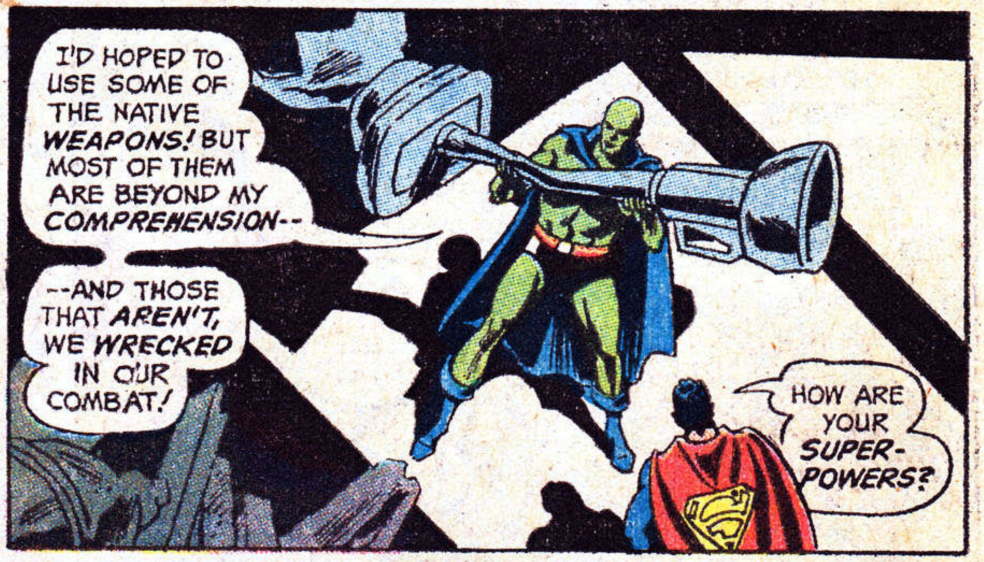

THE ROBO-CHARGERS ARE FUELED BY THE LIFE-FORCE OF... LIVING BEINGS!

SO... THE MARTIANS ARE BEING USED--
--YES! USED TO "POWER" LETHAL DEVICES!

TONIGHT-- WHEN THE SUN SETS-- I'LL ATTEMPT A RESCUE! CHANCES ARE I'LL FAIL--
--BUT IF I DIDN'T TRY, I'D BE AS GOOD AS DEAD ANYWAY!
YOU WON'T FAIL--

--NEITHER OF US WILL! TOGETHER... WE'LL LICK 'EM!
THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT! I CAN'T LET YOU RISK YOUR LIFE!
LISTEN... EITHER ACCEPT MY HELP-- OR WALK OVER MY BODY!

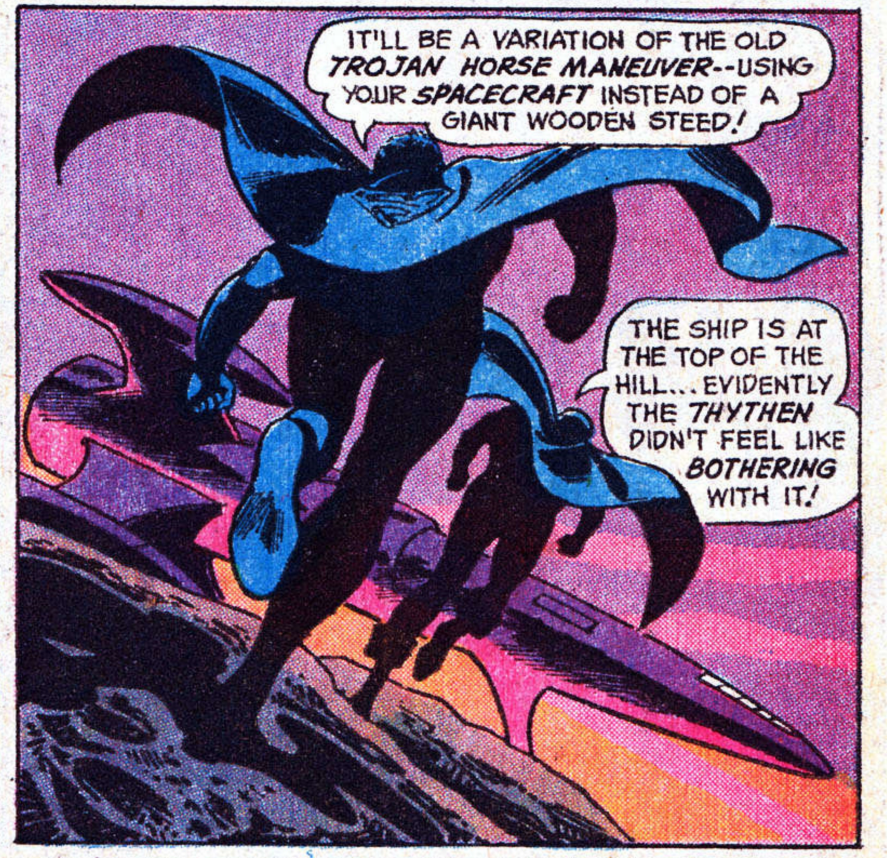
ALL RIGHT, SUPERMAN... I KNOW BETTER THAN TO ARGUE WITH YOU!
POOR GUY! HE'S OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED... HALF CRAZY WITH WORRY! NO WONDER HE MISTAKENLY ATTACKED ME!

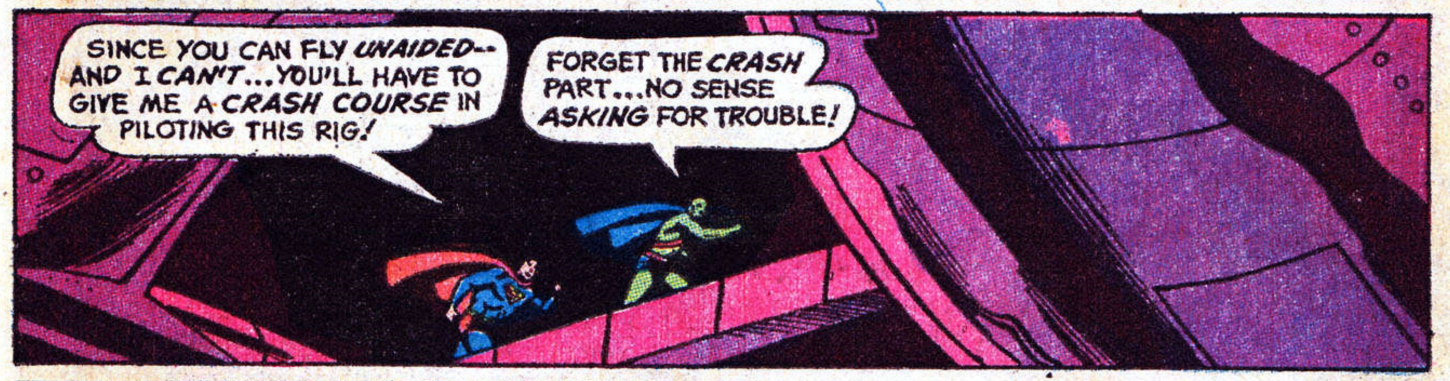

I'D HOPED TO USE SOME OF THE NATIVE WEAPONS! BUT MOST OF THEM ARE BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION--
--AND THOSE THAT AREN'T, WE WRECKED IN OUR COMBAT!
HOW ARE YOUR SUPER-POWERS?

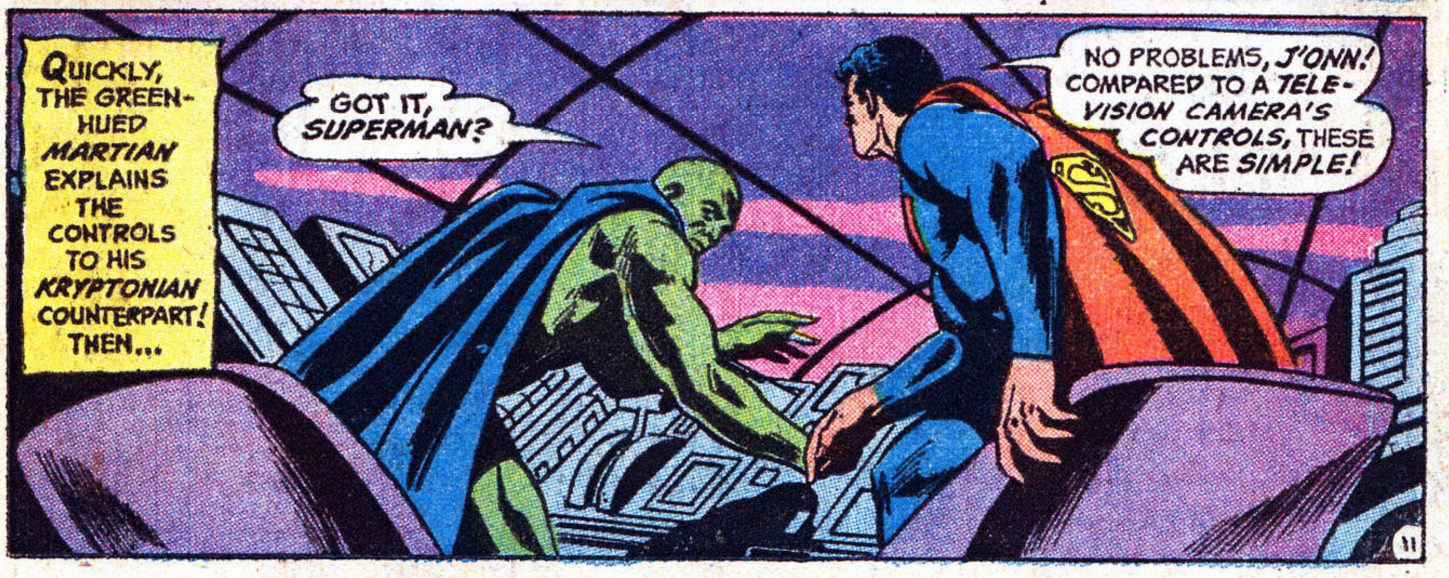
THE ATMOSPHERE OF VONN AFFECTED THEM! I'M A BIT STRONGER THAN ON MARS...
I HAVE LIMITED FLIGHT... FAIR MUSCLE-STRENGTH... NO INVULNERABILITY!

IT JUST MAY BE ENOUGH! THE SUN'S NEARLY DOWN... LET'S GET STARTED SCOUTING!
I WANT TO GET THE LAY OF THE LAND!
THE THYTHEN CAMP IS TO THE WEST--

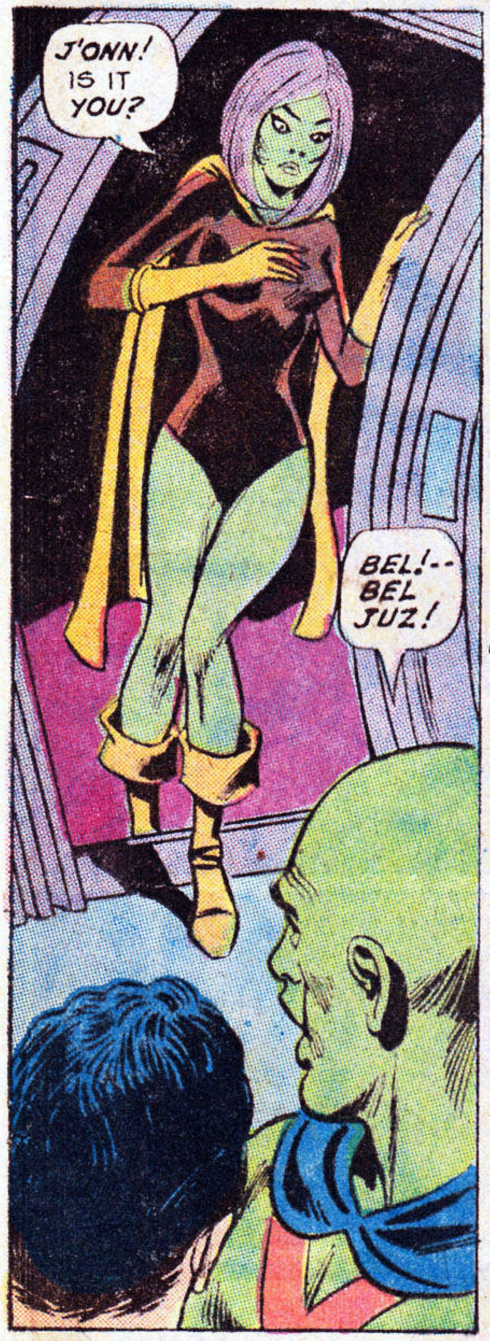
THEN THOSE GIRDERS MUST BE WHERE THE MARTIANS ARE... AND THAT DOME THE THYTHEN HEADQUARTERS!
I'M BEGINNING TO GET THE GLIMMER OF A PLAN!

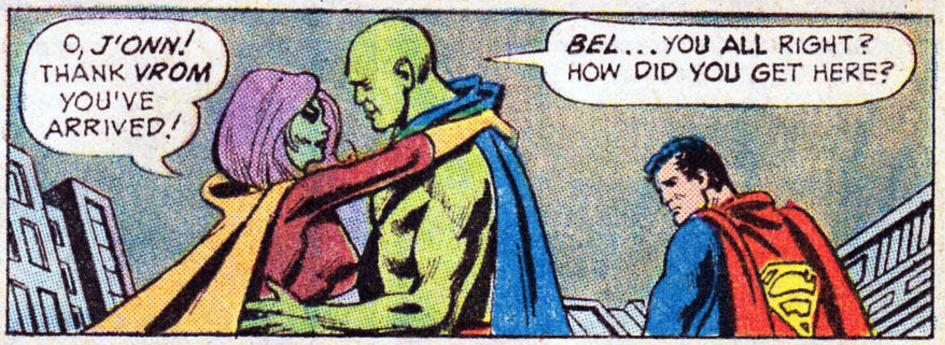

IT'LL BE A VARIATION OF THE OLD TROJAN HORSE MANEUVER--USING YOUR SPACECRAFT INSTEAD OF A GIANT WOODEN STEED!
THE SHIP IS AT THE TOP OF THE HILL... EVIDENTLY THE THYTHEN DIDN'T FEEL LIKE BOTHERING WITH IT!

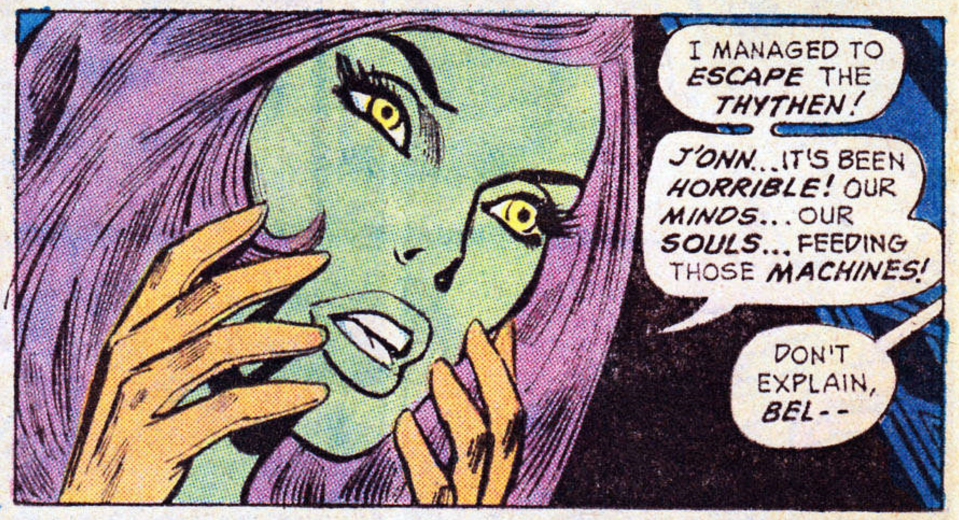

SINCE YOU CAN FLY UNAIDED-- AND I CAN'T... YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE ME A CRASH COURSE IN PILOTING THIS RIG!
FORGET THE CRASH PART... NO SENSE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!

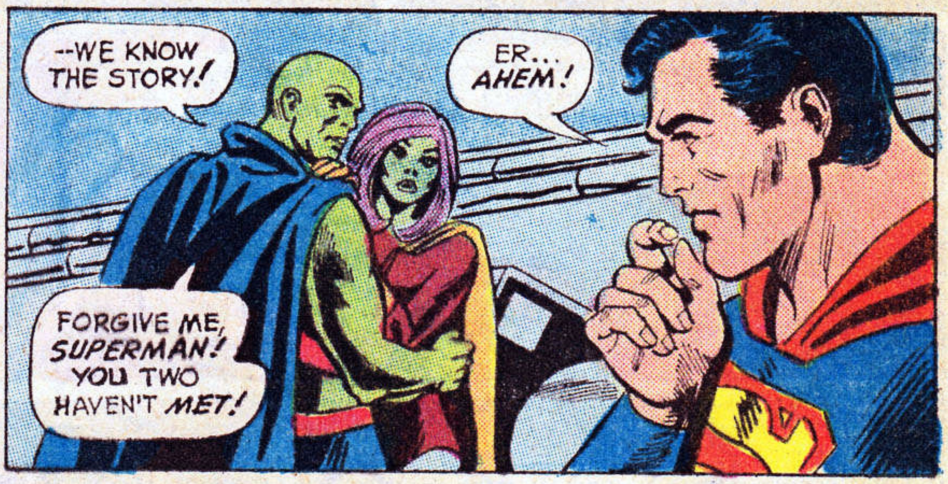

QUICKLY, THE GREEN-HUED MARTIAN EXPLAINS THE CONTROLS TO HIS KRYPTONIAN COUNTERPART! THEN...
GOT IT, SUPERMAN?
NO PROBLEMS, J'ONN! COMPARED TO A TELEVISION CAMERA'S CONTROLS, THESE ARE SIMPLE!

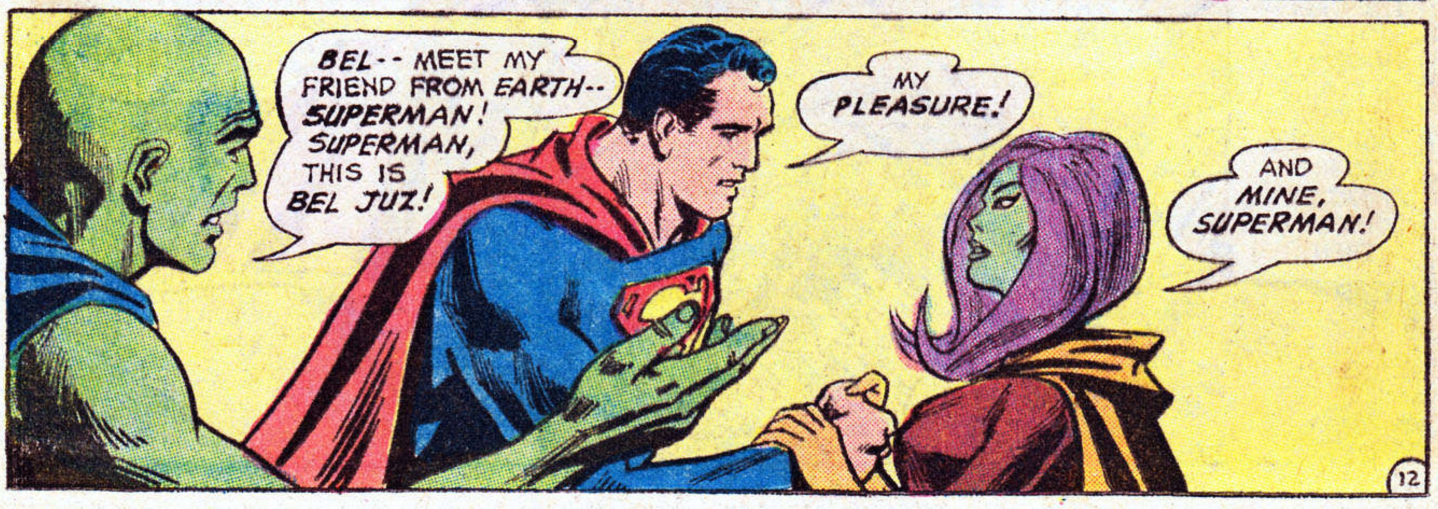
HELLO! IS ANYONE IN THERE--?


J'ONN! IS IT YOU?
BEL!-- BEL JUZ!

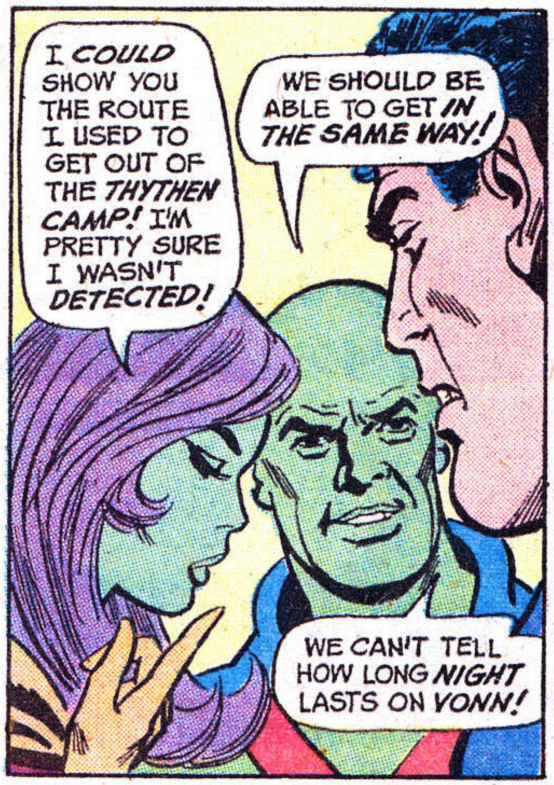

O, J'ONN! THANK VROM YOU'VE ARRIVED!
BEL... YOU ALL RIGHT? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

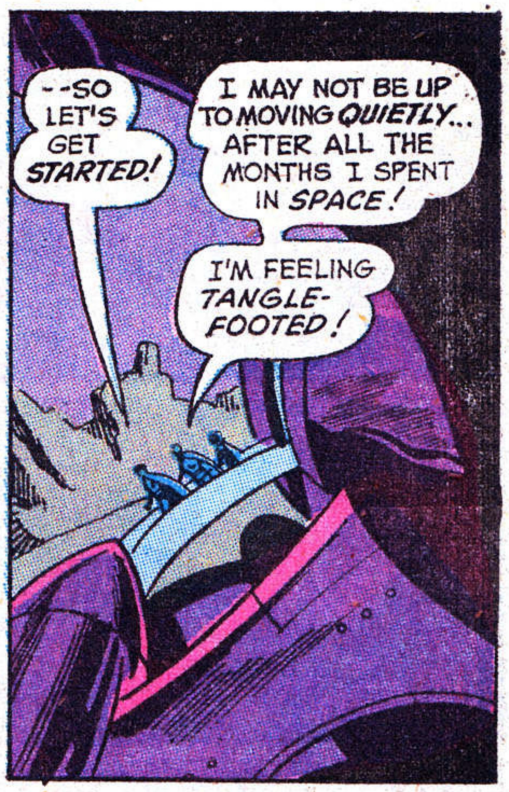

I MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE THYTHEN!
J'ONN...IT'S BEEN HORRIBLE! OUR MINDS... OUR SOULS... FEEDING THOSE MACHINES!
DON'T EXPLAIN, BEL--


--WE KNOW THE STORY!
ER... AHEM!
FORGIVE ME, SUPERMAN! YOU TWO HAVEN'T MET!


BEL-- MEET MY FRIEND FROM EARTH-- SUPERMAN! SUPERMAN, THIS IS BEL JUZ!
MY PLEASURE!
AND MINE, SUPERMAN!

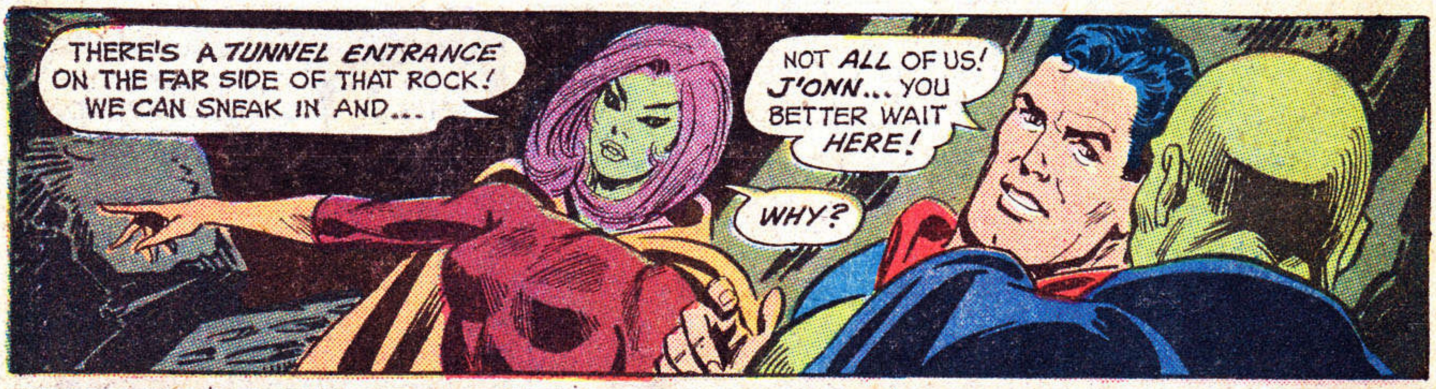
BEL... SUPERMAN HAS A PLAN... TO FREE OUR PEOPLE!
WAIT, J'ONN! IF BEL ESCAPED, PERHAPS SHE HAS A BETTER IDEA!


I COULD SHOW YOU THE ROUTE I USED TO GET OUT OF THE THYTHEN CAMP! I'M PRETTY SURE I WASN'T DETECTED!
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IN THE SAME WAY!
WE CAN'T TELL HOW LONG NIGHT LASTS ON VONN!


--SO LET'S GET STARTED!
I MAY NOT BE UP TO MOVING QUIETLY... AFTER ALL THE MONTHS I SPENT IN SPACE!
I'M FEELING TANGLE-FOOTED!

YOU WERE WONDERFULLY AGILE FIGHTING SUPERMAN!
BUT... I DIDN'T WIN, DID I?-- STILL, THANKS FOR THE COMPLIMENT!

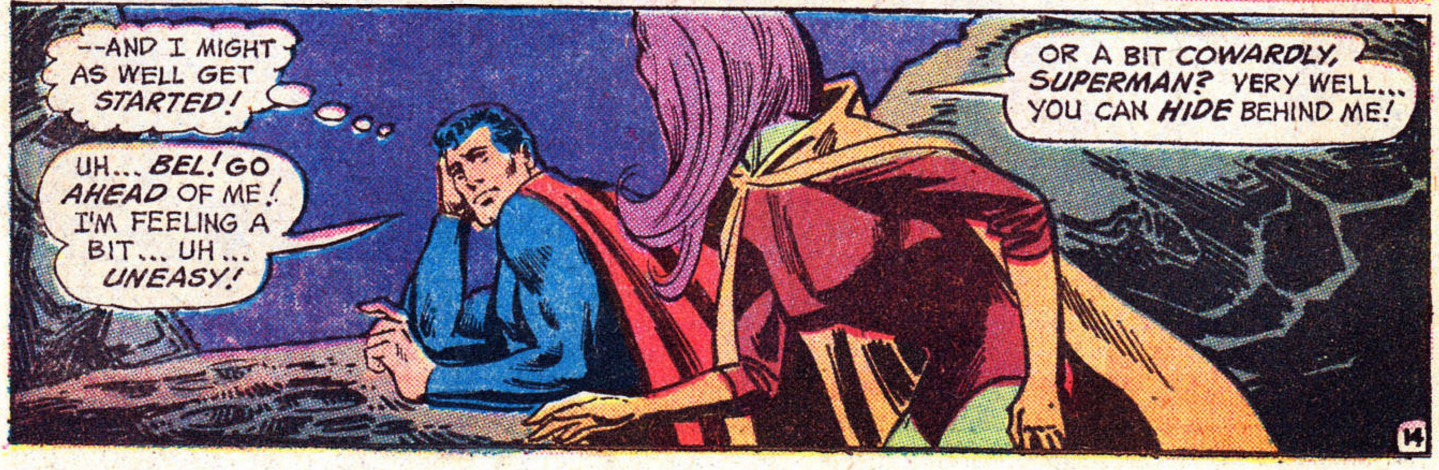
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE... EERIE LANDSCAPE!
TO ME IT LOOKS NATURAL!--LOOK ...TWO MOONS --JUST AS WE HAD ON MARS!
SHHHH--! OUR DESTINATION IS JUST AHEAD!

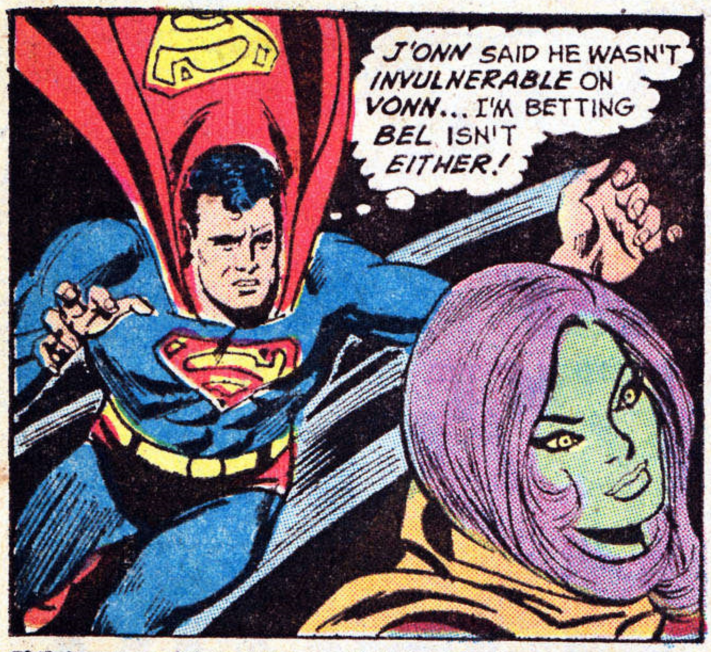

THERE'S A TUNNEL ENTRANCE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THAT ROCK! WE CAN SNEAK IN AND...
NOT ALL OF US! J'ONN... YOU BETTER WAIT HERE!
WHY?

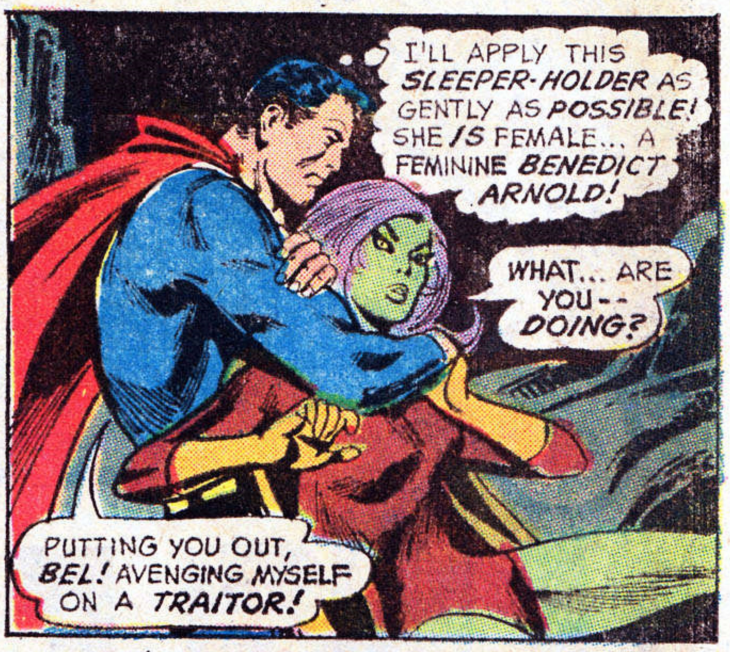
BECAUSE I SAID SO!--I INSIST! IT'D BE STUPID FOR THE THREE OF US TO GO BLUNDERING ON!
J'ONN--HIDE IN THE DITCH! AND STAY THERE...TILL YOU GET A SIGNAL TO ACT!

Y...YOU SOUND LIKE A TYRANT!
CALL ME THAT IF YOU WANT... ONLY--DON'T ARGUE!

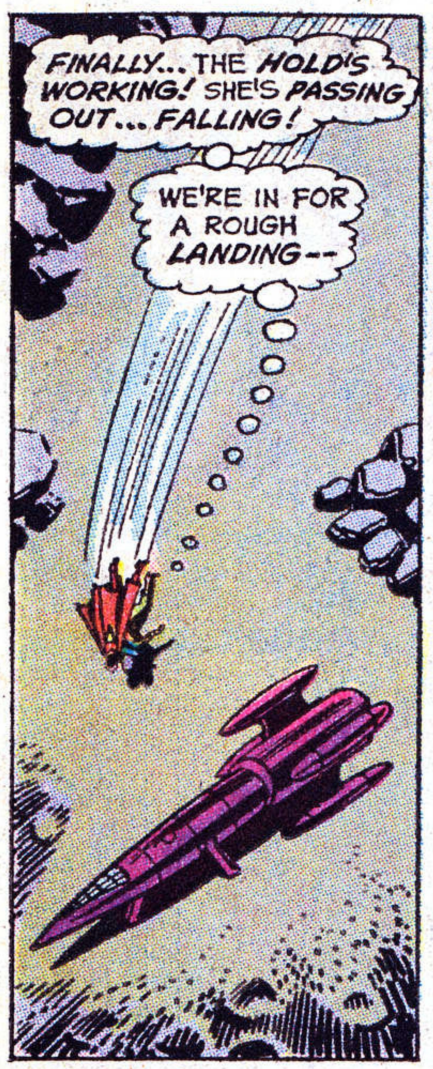
I HATED TO SNAP AT J'ONN! BUT WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR A TRAP--
--AND IN HIS WEAKENED CONDITION, HE MAY NOT BE READY TO LISTEN TO REASON!
AS IT IS, I HAVE A TOUGH TASK AHEAD OF ME--

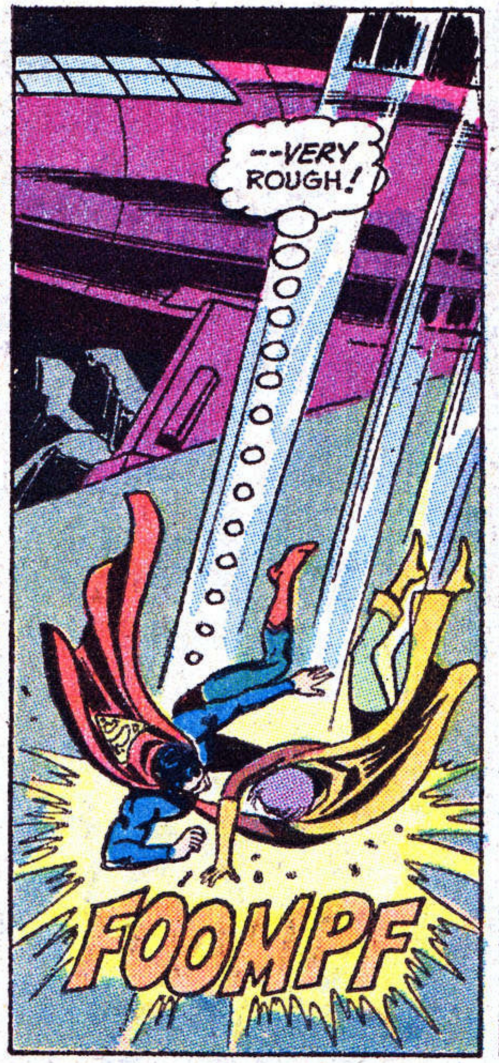

--AND I MIGHT AS WELL GET STARTED!
UH... BEL! GO AHEAD OF ME! I'M FEELING A BIT... UH... UNEASY!
OR A BIT COWARDLY, SUPERMAN? VERY WELL... YOU CAN HIDE BEHIND ME!

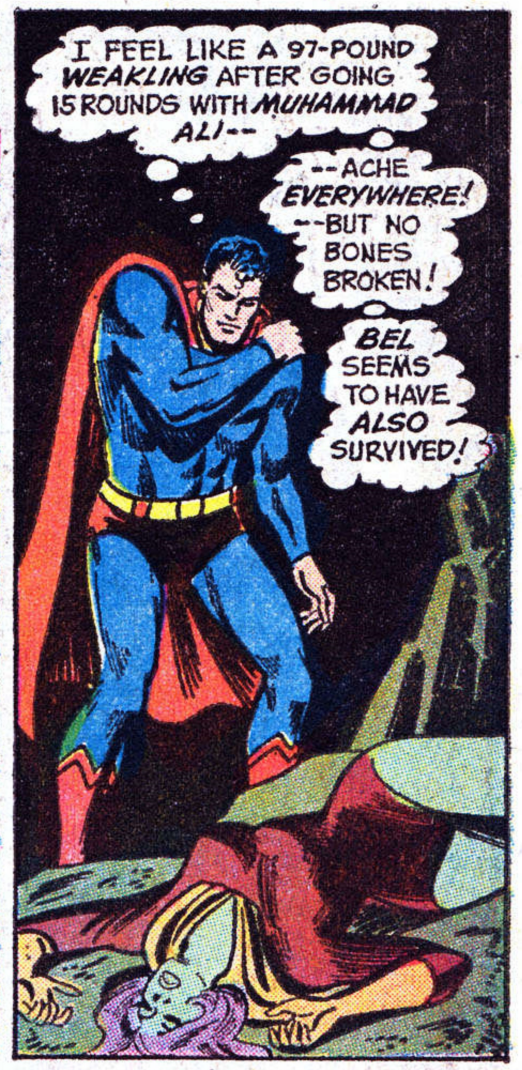


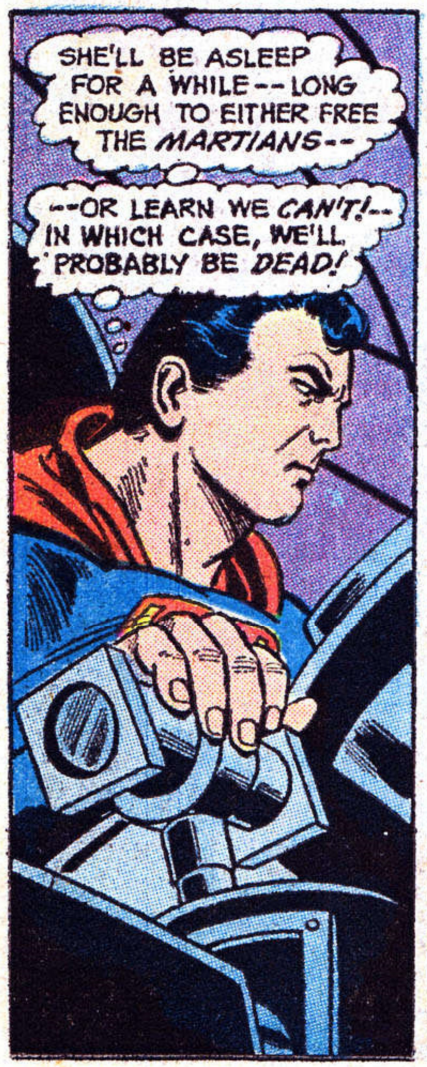


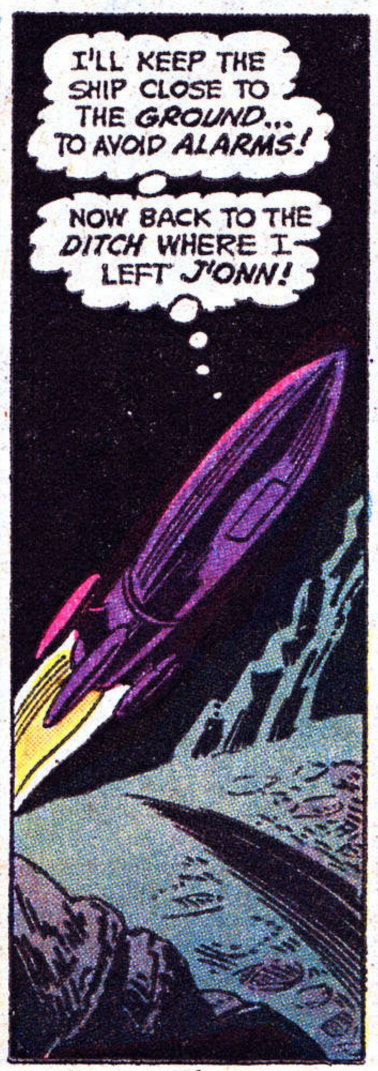
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

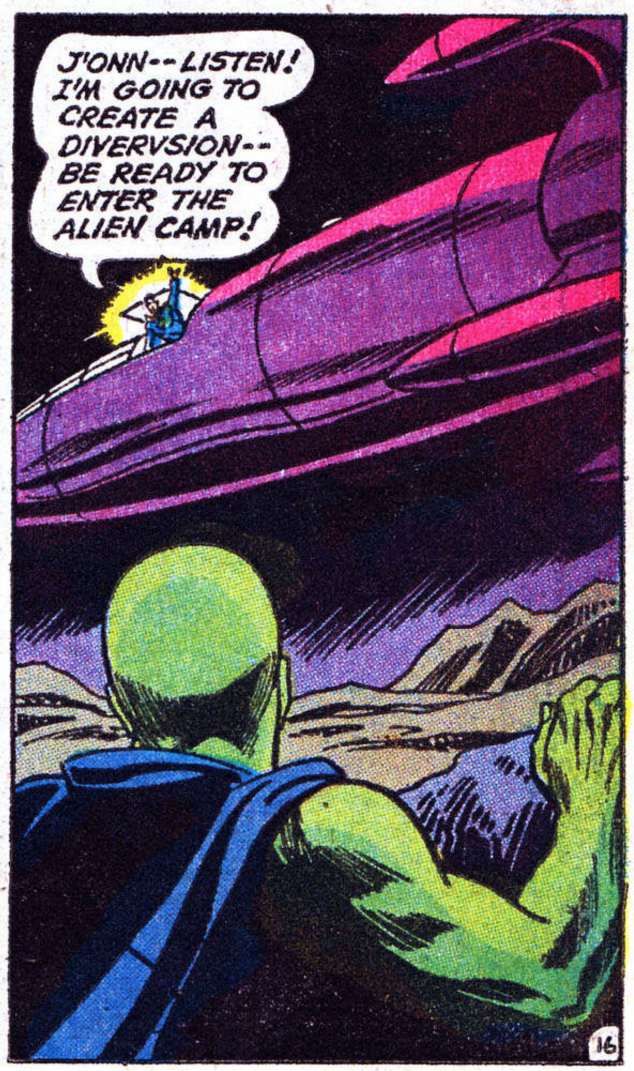

FINALLY... THE HOLD'S WORKING! SHE'S PASSING OUT... FALLING!
WE'RE IN FOR A ROUGH LANDING--

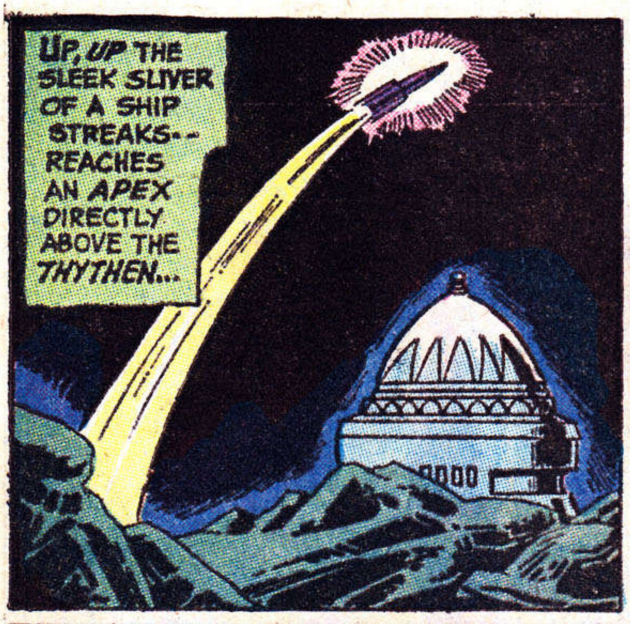

--VERY ROUGH!
FOOMPF

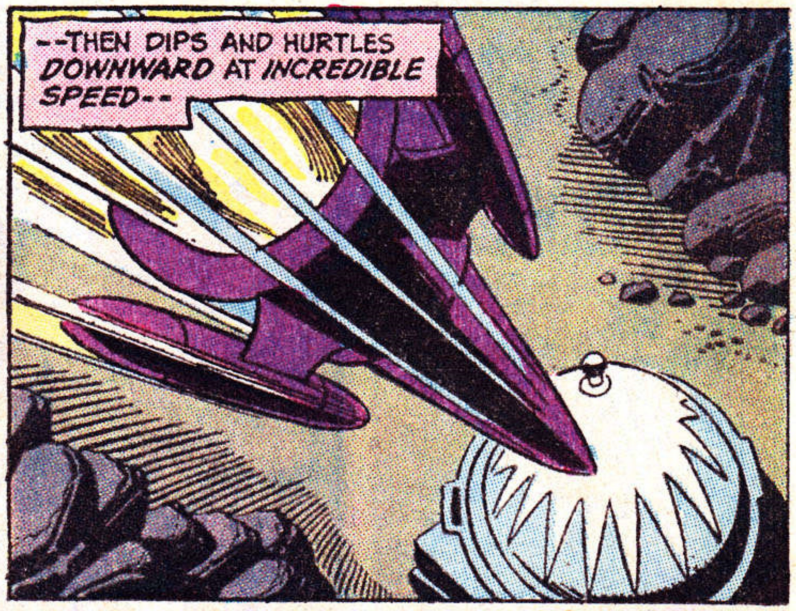

I FEEL LIKE A 97-POUND WEAKLING AFTER GOING 15 ROUNDS WITH MUHAMMAD ALI--
--ACHE EVERYWHERE! --BUT NO BONES BROKEN!
BEL SEEMS TO HAVE ALSO SURVIVED!

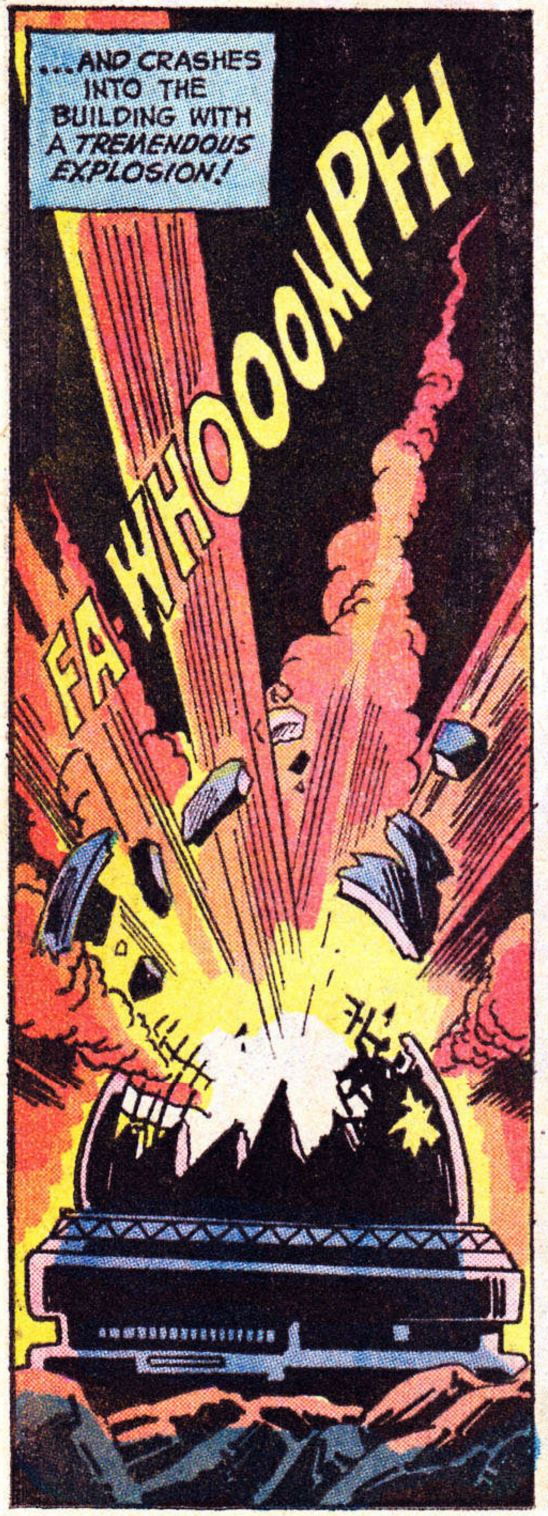

SHE'LL BE ASLEEP FOR A WHILE--LONG ENOUGH TO EITHER FREE THE MARTIANS--
--OR LEARN WE CAN'T!-- IN WHICH CASE, WE'LL PROBABLY BE DEAD!


I'LL KEEP THE SHIP CLOSE TO THE GROUND... TO AVOID ALARMS!
NOW BACK TO THE DITCH WHERE I LEFT J'ONN!


J'ONN--LISTEN! I'M GOING TO CREATE A DIVERVSION-- BE READY TO ENTER THE ALIEN CAMP!

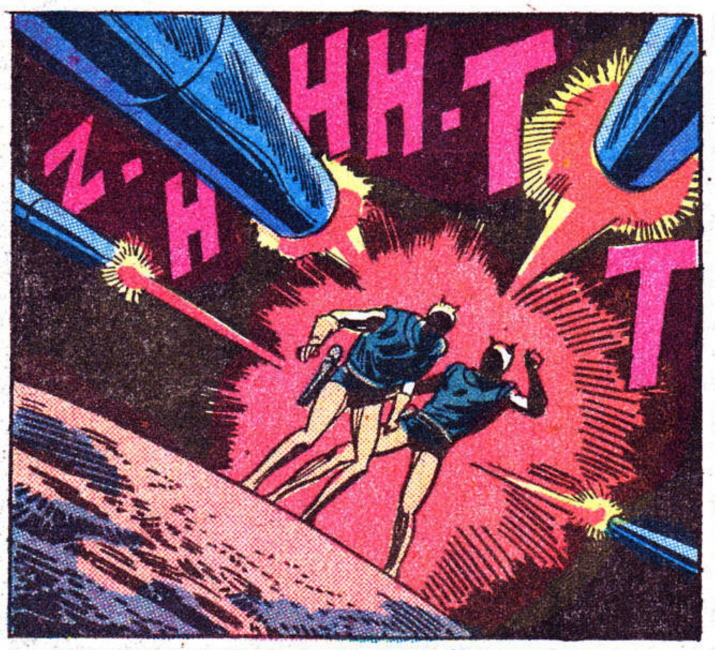

UP, UP THE SLEEK SLIVER OF A SHIP STREAKS-- REACHES AN APEX DIRECTLY ABOVE THE THYTHEN...

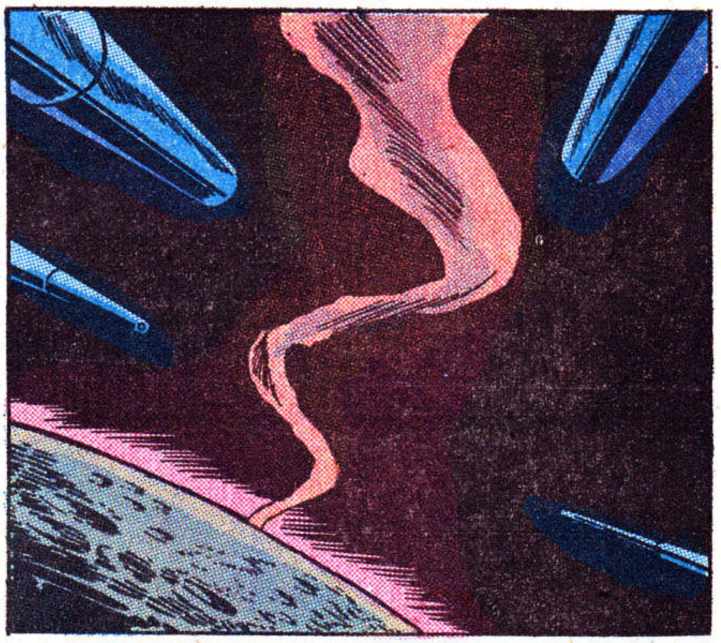

--THEN DIPS AND HURTLES DOWNWARD AT INCREDIBLE SPEED--


...AND CRASHES INTO THE BUILDING WITH A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION!
FA-WHOOOMPFH

WHEN SUPERMAN SAID HE'D CREATE A DIVERSION I DIDN'T EXPECT HIM TO DO THAT--TO GIVE HIS VERY LIFE!
NOBODY COULD HAVE SURVIVED SUCH A CRASH--!
I VOW HIS SACRIFICE WON'T BE IN VAIN!

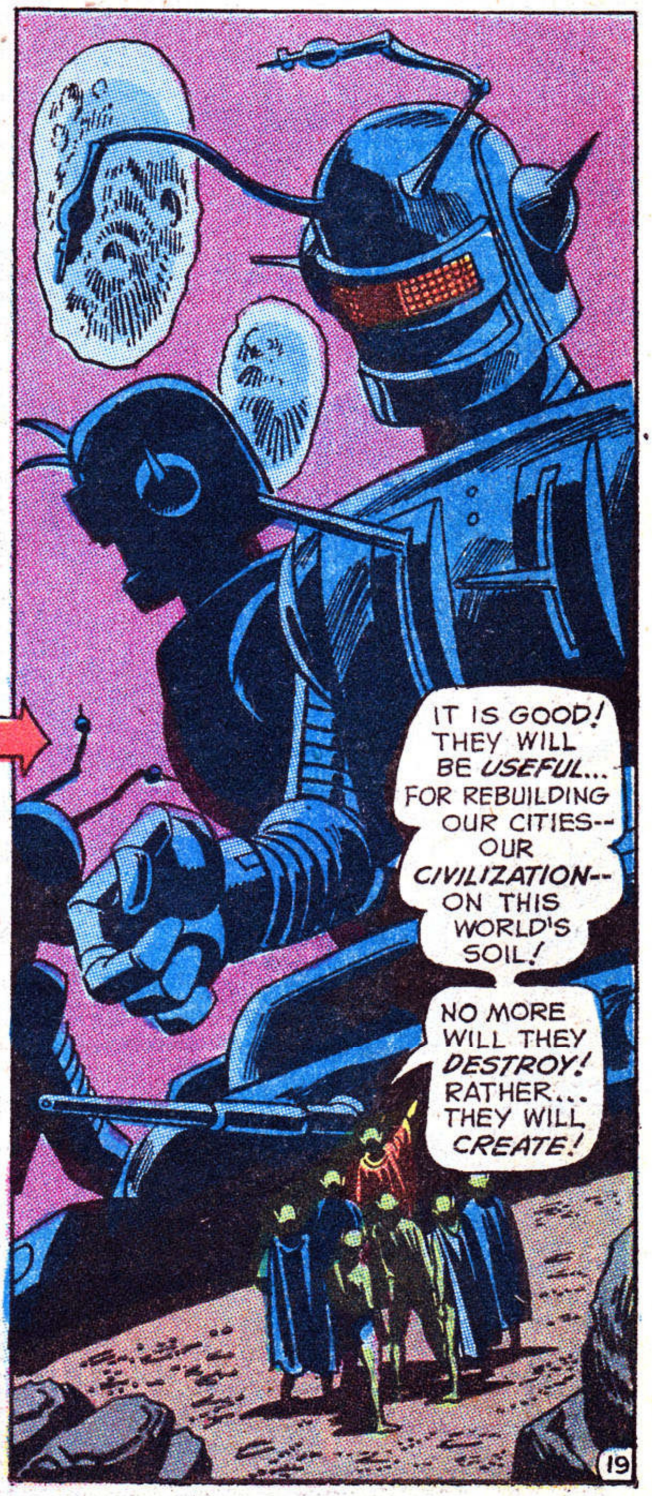
HALF-LEAPING, HALF-FLYING, THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER MOVES ALONG HIS ENTRANCED COMPANIONS, RIPPING LOOSE THE CABLES THAT BIND THEM--
WITH THEIR AID, I'LL AVENGE SUPERMAN! THE THYTHEN WILL PAY--!
WILL THEY, J'ONN? LOOK--! TWO OF THE THREE MONSTROSITIES CLIMB FROM THE SHATTERED DOME, AND--
THE MARTIANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OUTRAGE! SOMEHOW--THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE!
YES--AND WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NAUGHT ELSE!
ROBO-CHARGERS--ATTENTION! ATTACK THE FOREIGNERS--GRIND THEM TO DUST!
--TO DUST!
THE CHARGERS TURN TOWARD US--NOT THE MARTIANS!
WE HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THEM--!
FLEE--!
THEY HAVE BLOCKED OUR EXIT!
EVEN WORSE, THEY AIM THEIR PROJECTORS AT US!
18

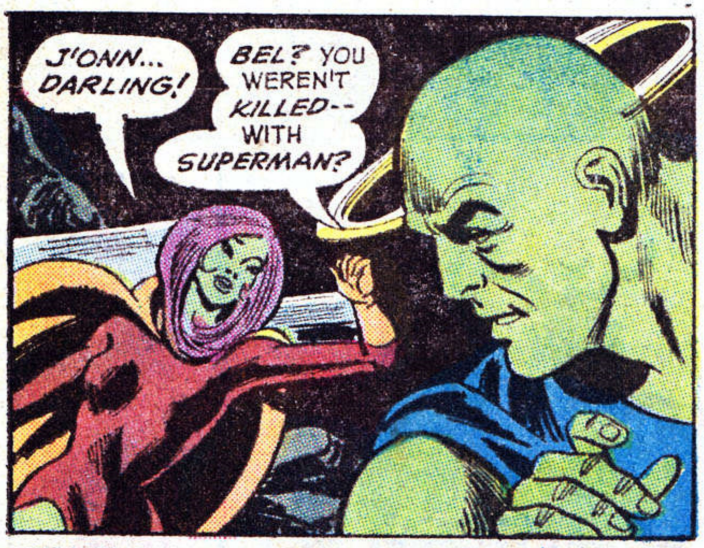

Z-H
HH-T
T

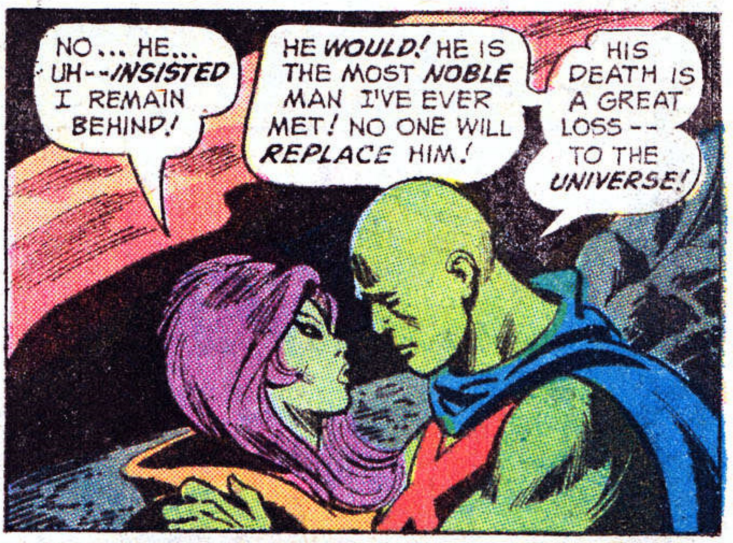


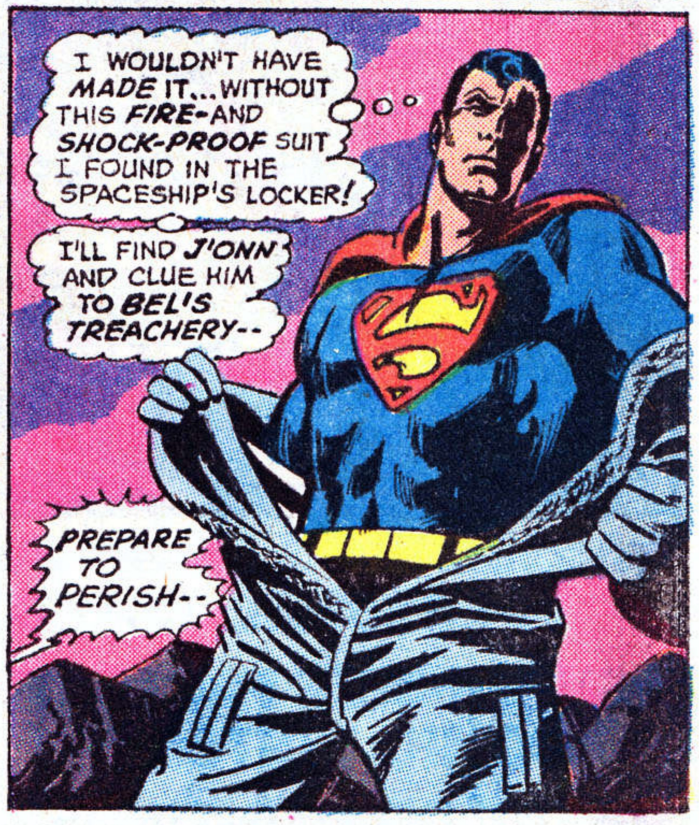
I... DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY DID THE MACHINES BLAST THEIR MASTERS?
J'ONN... OUR LIFE-FORCE WAS FUELING THE ROBO-CHARGERS! WHAT THE THYTHEN DIDN'T REALIZE IS...

...THAT IN PUTTING OUR LIFE INTO THEIR FORMS, THEY PUT IN OUR SOULS... OUR CONSCIOUSNESS! WE BECAME THE MACHINES ...AND THEY US!
IT WAS WE-- ALIVE INSIDE THE MACHINES' BODIES--WHO VANQUISHED OUR ENEMIES!

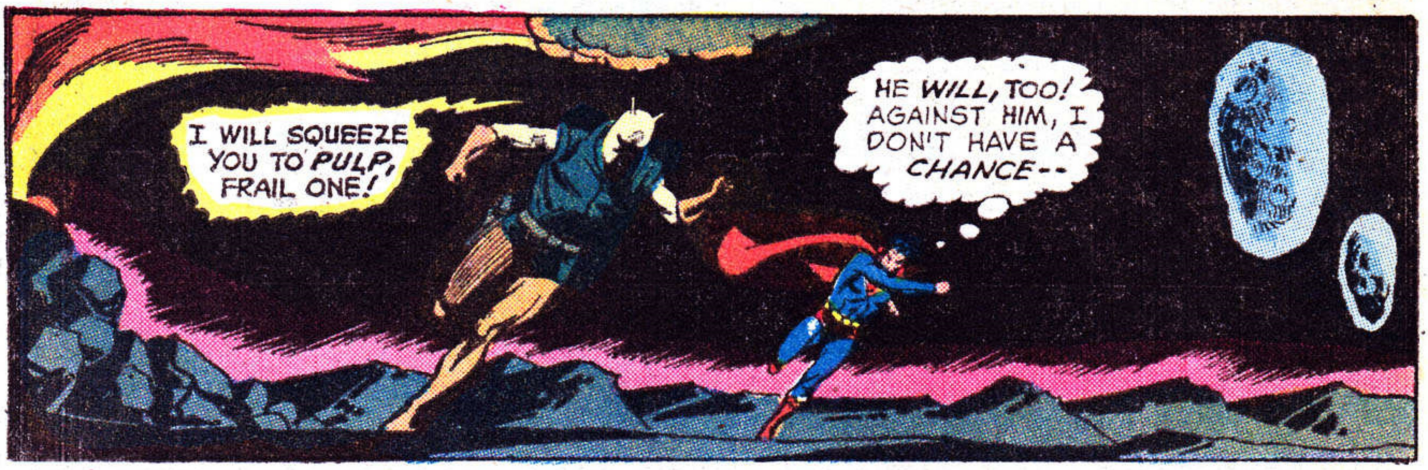

IT IS GOOD! THEY WILL BE USEFUL... FOR REBUILDING OUR CITIES-- OUR CIVILIZATION-- ON THIS WORLD'S SOIL!
NO MORE WILL THEY DESTROY! RATHER... THEY WILL CREATE!

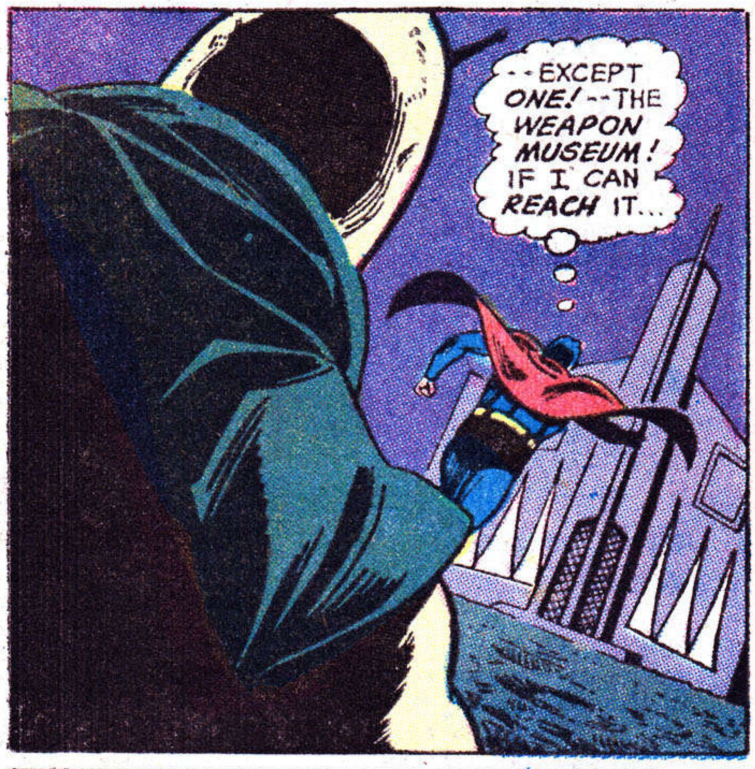


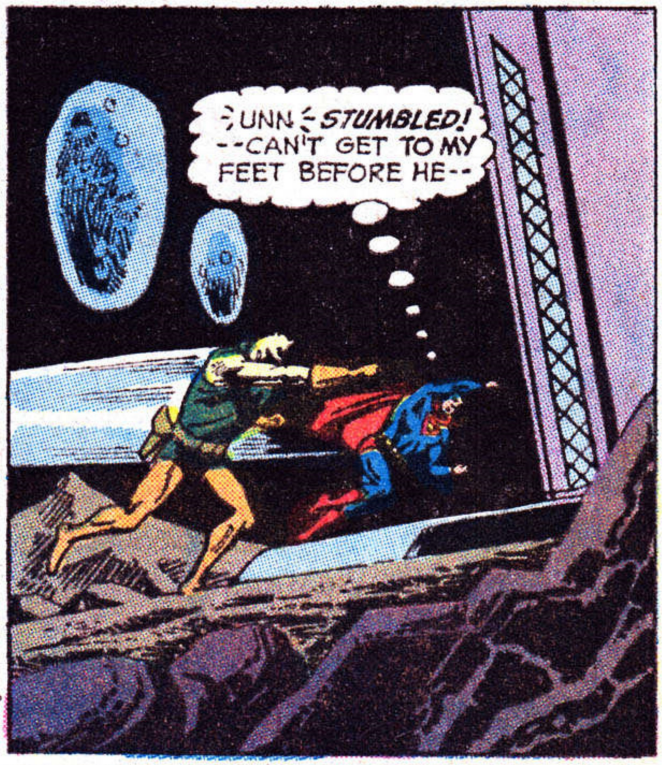


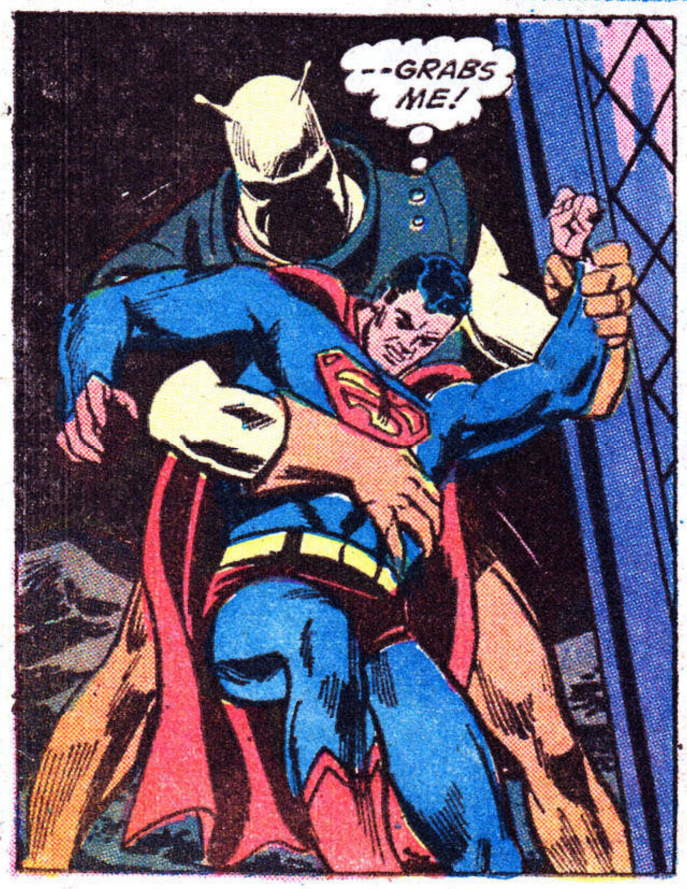


CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

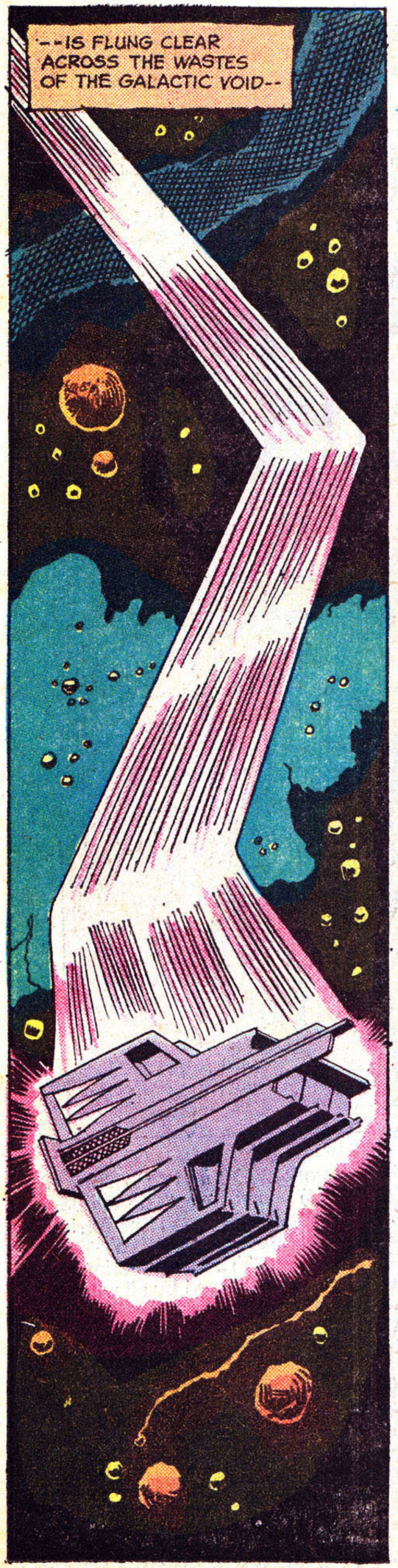

I WILL SQUEEZE YOU TO PULP, FRAIL ONE!
HE WILL, TOO! AGAINST HIM, I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE--

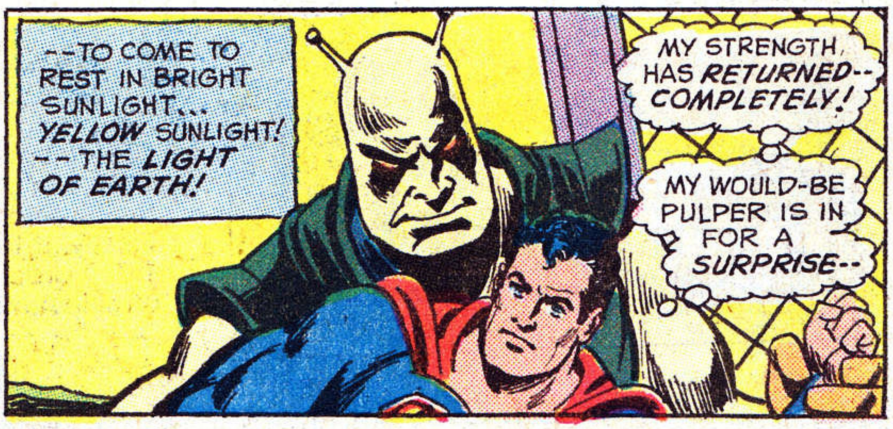

--EXCEPT ONE! --THE WEAPON MUSEUM! IF I CAN REACH IT...

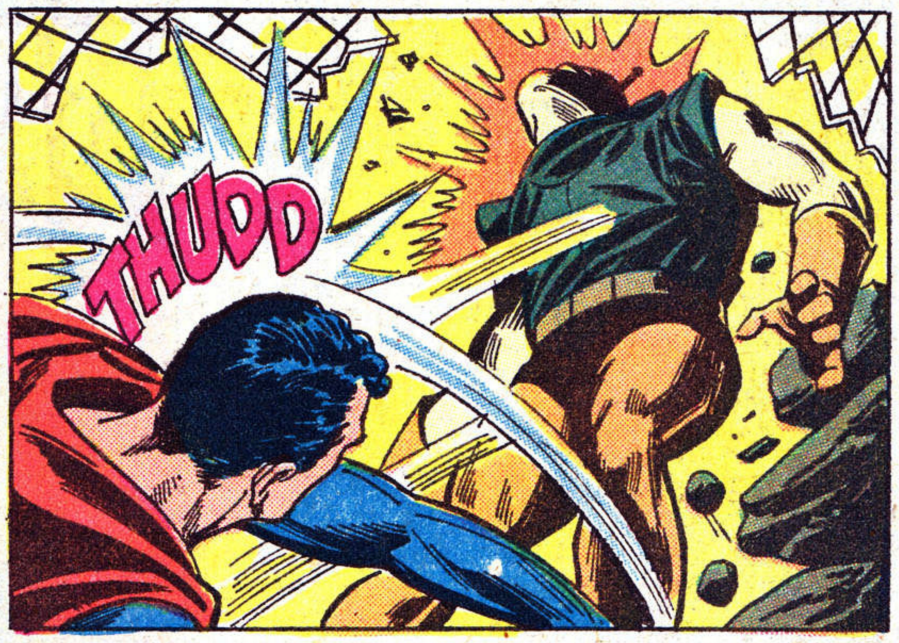

UNN! STUMBLED! --CAN'T GET TO MY FEET BEFORE HE--

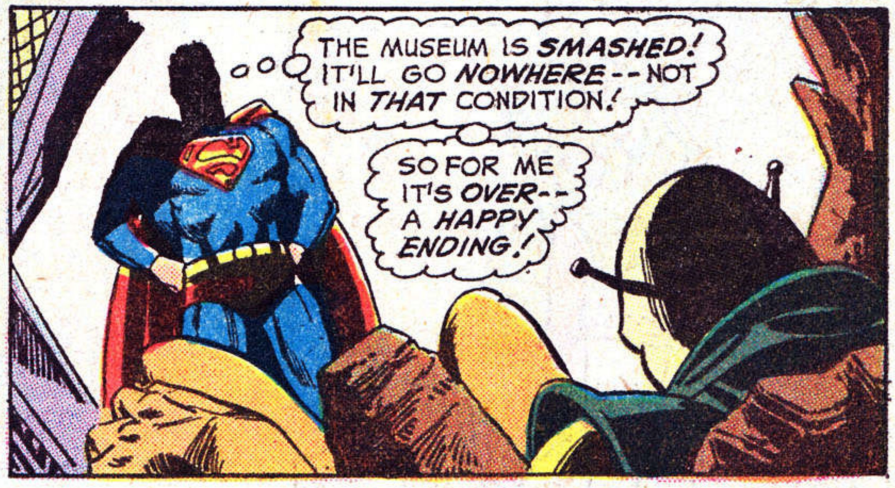

--GRABS ME!

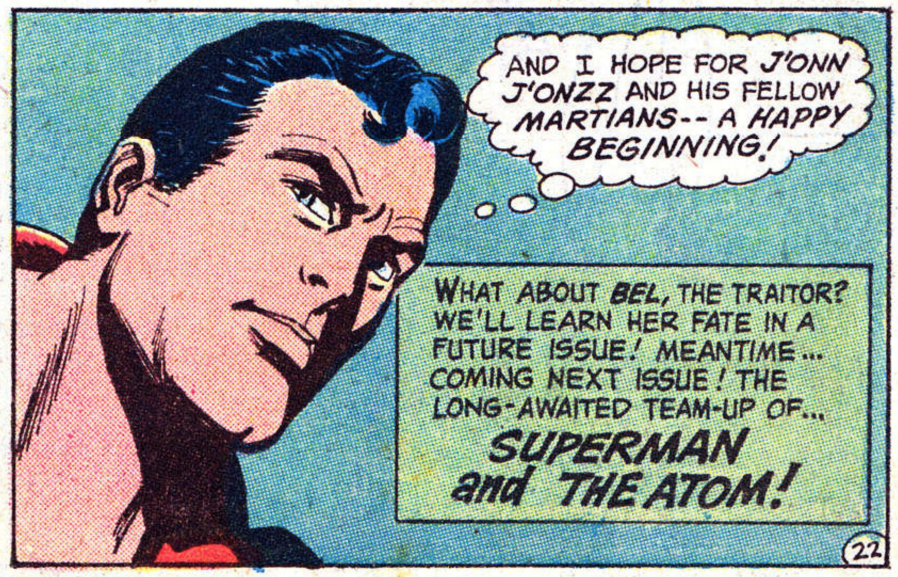
SUDDENLY... THE VAULTED HALL IS SEIZED BY A TREMOR --MORE VIOLENT THAN THE HIGHEST RICHTER-SCALE EARTHQUAKE--


--IS FLUNG CLEAR ACROSS THE WASTES OF THE GALACTIC VOID--


--TO COME TO REST IN BRIGHT SUNLIGHT... YELLOW SUNLIGHT! --THE LIGHT OF EARTH!
MY STRENGTH HAS RETURNED--COMPLETELY!
MY WOULD-BE PULPER IS IN FOR A SURPRISE--


THUDD


THE MUSEUM IS SMASHED! IT'LL GO NOWHERE--NOT IN THAT CONDITION!
SO FOR ME IT'S OVER--A HAPPY ENDING!


AND I HOPE FOR J'ONN J'ONZZ AND HIS FELLOW MARTIANS--A HAPPY BEGINNING!
WHAT ABOUT BEL, THE TRAITOR? WE'LL LEARN HER FATE IN A FUTURE ISSUE! MEANTIME... COMING NEXT ISSUE! THE LONG-AWAITED TEAM-UP OF...
SUPERMAN and THE ATOM!